Beijing triumphs in 2008 Olympic Games vote

STORY ON PAGE A3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2001 ★★ 74 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 216 ₱15

US no longer needs RP bases, says Blair

BY CARLITO PABLO AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE UNITED States no longer considers its former naval base in Subic, Zambales, a strategic point from which to project American military power in the Asia-Pacific region.

Adm. Dennis Blair, Commander in Chief of the US Pacific Command, gave this assessment

US/ A5

WITH THIS ISSUE

All about élan

- Kids Kids Kids
- Pia Regala Hebron
- Generations of Guingonas
- Neu Woman 2001

Mosques, homes raided

Masked 'spotters' pinpoint suspected Abu Sayyaf, supporters

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Government soldiers stormed mosques and houses in six barangays here and took away suspected Abu Sayyaf members and supporters shortly after the Islamic congregational prayer ended at 5 a.m. yesterday.

An initial report by the government's Joint Task Force Comet showed that more than 20 persons had been arrested or "invited for questioning" in connection with what Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said was President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency in the province around 11:30 p.m. Thursday.

Among those arrested and detained in a small cell at the military headquarters in Barangay Tabuk were Basilan Electric Cooperative (Baselco) president Osin Abdulkarim, barangay chair Abdulgani Abbas, and *kagawad* Royo Isah.

It was in Tabuk that the late Abdurajak Janjalani founded the Abu Sayyaf.

Abdulkarim's family said no warrant was presented for his arrest.

His wife Anna said soldiers forcibly opened the door of their house around 5 a.m. "We were taken by surprise," she said in Filipino. "I hurriedly got dressed, they were demanding that we come out quickly. Then I saw them pulling my husband away. They tied his hands with rope behind his back."

Anna said her husband told the soldiers: "Take it easy, I'm not a bad person. Don't do this to me. I can walk straight."

She said she saw a woman in a black bonnet pointing at her husband.

Sources in Basilan said the military was using "spotters" to pinpoint suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

The spotters cover their faces with ski masks to conceal their identities, the sources said.

MOSQUES/A16

JULIE ALIPALA-INOT/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

LAST photo out of Basilan where on Friday the INQUIRER correspondent was barred from taking pictures of the military "zoning" and those arrested by the military.

Warrantless arrests for 'state of lawlessness'

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN, JULIET L. JAVELLANA, ALEXANDER M. YOUNG AND JONATHAN F. MA

WARRANTLESS arrests that can be made day or night. Search-and-seizure operations. Checkpoints.

The Department of Justice has issued a memorandum allowing military officers in pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf to resort to these practices as part of efforts to curb the group's activities in Mindanao.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and other government officials flew to Zamboanga City last night to oversee the prosecution of suspected Abu Sayyaf members rounded up earlier yesterday in Basilan.

A memorandum based on President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to prosecute those arrested was read at a press conference held at the Garden Orchid Hotel in Zamboanga City.

Asked what the punishment was for the suspected bandits, Perez dryly responded: "Death."

He said that the Joint Task Force Comet had also rounded up supposed Abu Sayaff lookouts and go-betweens, and that those who profited in the negotiations for the release of the bandits' hostages would be charged as co-conspirators, whose punishment would also be death.

Earlier at the Hotel Inter Continental in Makati City, the President announced before a large business gathering of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. the arrest of 32 supposed bandits as a result of a massive crackdown she launched midnight Thursday against the "anti-peace and anti-Filipino" Abu Sayyaf.

"We expect that these measures will help hasten the destruction of the terrorist groups operating in Basilan, Sulu and adjacent areas. And we expect more arrests to be effected within the next few days," she said in a press conference held

WARRANTLESS/ A16

Gov't cloaks military with legality

BY RAUL J. PALABRICA

ANALYSIS

LIKE "invasion" and "rebellion," the Constitution does not define "lawless violence" ("state of lawlessness") to determine when the President has the authority to exercise extraordinary powers to meet these exigencies. It is up to the President to decide whether or not the conditions of invasion or rebellion exist.

Lawlessness connotes a breakdown of peace and order in a locality. It is a condition where the delivery of basic government functions is prevented or hampered by the action of certain members of a community.

In the perception of the President, this is the situation in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City where the terrorist group, Abu Sayyaf, is entrenched.

The memorandum of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines gave the military based in the provinces and city mentioned above the authority to perform arrest-search-and-detain powers similar to those of the Philippine National Police.

Perez is aware that the arrest, search and detention of suspected members, sympathizers and supporters of the Abu Sayyaf by the AFP in the course of their operations may give rise to legal complications.

Hence, the need for a memo authorizing them to perform those police functions.

GOV'T/ A16

GMA favors Drilon but 'not in public'

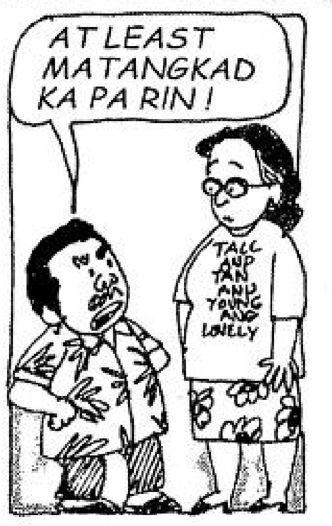
BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA, CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday added more fuel to the Senate leadership battle by indirectly confirming her endorsement of Sen. Franklin Drilon as the next Senate President.

Asked in her press conference about an INQUIRER report that she had expressed preference for Drilon, the President replied: "Not in public."

The President's response drew laughter and applause from hundreds of business leaders gathered

GMA/ A17


AT LEAST MATANGKAD KA PA RIN!
TALL AND TAN AND YOUNG AND LOVELY

'The Girl from Ipanema' taken to court

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—She was "tall and tan and young and lovely," just as the classic bossa nova song she inspired said 36 years ago. But does that give Helo Pinheiro, now 54, the right to use "The Girl From Ipanema" to promote herself?

No, according to the estates of the late Brazilian songwriters Vinicius de Moraes and Antonio Carlos Jobim, who are suing

THE/ A5

Tragedy in Sydney: 'The three corners of my world are gone'

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

"IT IS difficult to explain the love and ties in my family. But if you were to picture the four corners of the world, in my world we were the four. . . ."

"Three corners of my world are now gone."

A grieving Sef Gonzales, 20, faced the press for the first time yesterday since returning home on Tuesday night to find his Filipino-Australian parents, Teddy and Mary Josephine Lowiva, and his sister, Clodine, brutally murdered inside their home in North Ryde, Sydney.

A racist hate message had reportedly been scrawled in blood on one of the walls.

Sef, a law student at the University of NSW (North South Wales), appealed to the public to help authorities unmask the perpetrators of Tuesday's "senseless act" and asked the media to let his family and friends mourn in private.

THREE/ A5

LONE survivor, Sef Gonzales, makes an appeal: Help find killers.

AP

PORTRAIT of a family—Mary Josephine Lowiva, Clodine,18, and Teddy Gonzales—on the brink of bringing their "dreams to life."

AP

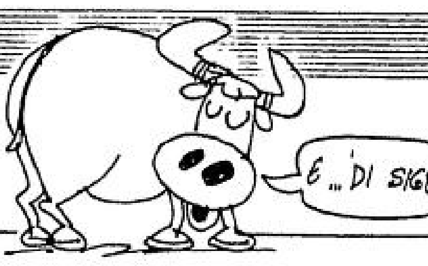
Macapagal attends JDV dinner

UP and down the House, President Macapagal-Arroyo has been displaying her political colors.

For the Upper House of Congress, she has endorsed Sen. Franklin Drilon for the Senate presidency—though "not in public." *(See story above.)*

And on Thursday night, she was guest of honor at a dinner hosted by Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia for those who have been supporting his candidacy for Speaker of

MACAPAGAL/ A16



I can defend Erap–Cuevas

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

FORMER Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas said yesterday he was not barred by law from defending former President Joseph Estrada since the latter is no longer a government official.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and other officials had questioned Cuevas' appearance Tuesday as counsel for Estrada during his arraignment before the Sandiganbayan.

Perez had said Republic Act 910 prohibits retired justices from representing public officials charged with a criminal offense.

Estrada is facing plunder, graft and perjury cases, among others, before the Sandiganbayan.

Cuevas countered that the law is clear that only in cases where retired justices are defending incumbent public officials are they in violation of the law and risk losing their pensions.

The law states that a retired justice cannot serve as counsel "in any criminal case wherein an officer or employee of the government is accused of an offense committed in relation to his office."

In a radio interview, Cuevas noted that the law requires three elements: that the issue is a criminal case, that an incumbent public officer is the one charged, and the official is being prosecuted in relation to his office.

"Is (Estrada) still a public officer? Not anymore, he is a civilian now. In fact, he claims to be president but (others insist) that he has resigned. So where does the prohibition come in?" Cuevas said.

"The fact that the crime was committed during (his stint) as a public official is not the sole and only (consideration). He is no longer a public officer," he said.

"If, however, the people say that he is still president then that makes him immune from suit. I don't think they want that situation," Cuevas told radio station dzBB.

In a later interview over the same station, Perez said "brilliant lawyers sometimes have a way of twisting the law."

"We are just pointing out what the law says. The theme of RA 910 is that you cannot eat your cake and have it too (sic)," Perez said.

Perez said a retired justice who is receiving a pension from the government "cannot fight the government. In a criminal case, you cannot serve as the lawyer of a government official accused in a case stemming from his office."

Cuevas said justice officials cannot seek the suspension of his pension—P53,800 a month—while he serves as one of Estrada's lawyers.

"The law says that if a retired official receiving a pension runs for office, his pension would be temporarily suspended. Now the law does not say anything specific about a (retired) justice's pension being suspended if he defends (a former president)," Cuevas said.

"Besides, I don't owe the government anything for the pension I receive. Beginning when I was an assistant fiscal until I became a Supreme Court justice, a span of 40 years, an amount was deducted from every salary I received meant for my retirement," he said.

But if justice officials insist that his pension be suspended, Cuevas said he would still defend the former president whom he considers a friend.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday said the law was "not applicable to Cuevas because he's not representing a government employee or official."

"You are only prevented from lawyering if your client is a government employee or officer. Erap is not," he said. "That law does not apply to him because it's only applicable to a pensioner who is representing a government employee or official."

Angara also lashed out at the government for its treatment of the Estrada family.

He pointed to the timing of the Office of the Ombudsman when it announced it was going to issue an arrest warrant for Sen. Loi Estrada for plunder.

"This is part of the overall strategy to decimate the opposition," Angara said, noting the Ombudsman made the announcement before the election of a Senate president.

"If Sen. Estrada is arrested, that's one vote less for the opposition," said Angara, who is vying for the Senate leadership.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., meantime agreed with the DOJ, saying Cuevas should consider refraining from appearing in court formally.

Pimentel, a lawyer, said even senators abide by the prohibition to appear in court "in behalf of clients." *With Armand N. Nocum*

UE College of Dentistry Erratum

The UE College of Dentistry wishes to rectify the error in its listing of successful UE examinees in the May 2001 Dentist Licensure Examinations which appeared in the UE ad of July 6, 2001 in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. The names Michelle R. Dancel and Liza Marie V. Sayoc were inadvertently listed as successful UE examinees in the said licensure exams. UE College of Dentistry Dean Diampo J. Lim apologizes for the mistake.

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Conviction sure–Erap

EX-PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada said yesterday he believes he will not get a fair trial in the Sandiganbayan and the court would have no choice but to convict an innocent man.

"They have no other choice," Estrada said in a phone interview when asked if he feared he would be convicted of plunder.

"Look at it this way, if I am acquitted what happens? They have to reinstate me, which they will never allow," he said, echoing remarks made in an interview with the INQUIRER shortly after his arrest.

"You can see the (moves) of the Sandiganbayan. They are arbitrarily denying all our petitions," he said, referring to his petitions to be placed under house arrest and for his case to be reinvestigated. *Reuters*

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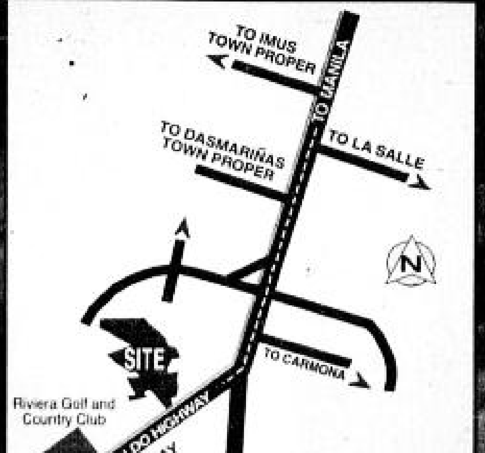
LOCATION MAP



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Beijing wins vote for 2008 Olympics

FIREWORKS exploded over Beijing last night as the city erupted in joy after it won the right to host the 2008 Olympics Games, triumphing over rivals that included Paris, Toronto, Osaka and Istanbul.

At the Millennium Tower in the west of the Chinese capital, a crowd of more than 4,000 greeted the news with jubilation, shouting and jumping up and down, after having patiently waited for hours for the announcement.

"Beijing people welcome everyone here," said Zhang Li, a 22-year-old student at Beijing Industrial University and one of the revelers at the tower.

"Beijing will be stronger and stronger now," she said.

The Chinese capital won the day in Moscow, erasing the bitter memory of their stunning defeat eight years ago when they lost the 2000 Olympics to Sydney by only two votes.

Beijing won the vote in the second round of voting when it obtained a majority of 56 votes out of the 105 International Olympic Committee (IOC) members who voted. Toronto came second with 22 votes ahead of Paris 18 and Istanbul 9.

The Japanese city of Osaka was eliminated in the first round, but Beijing did not have an outright majority and a second round of voting was called.

Chinese fears that worldwide criticism of the country's human rights record would derail their bid to host the world's biggest sports show proved unfounded as they swept aside their four rivals.

But Tibet's government-in-exile immediately condemned the decision to award the Games to Beijing, saying the move gave an "international stamp of approval" to China's human rights violations.

"We deeply regret that China is awarded the 2008 Olympic Games," the exiled government's foreign minister, T.C. Thethong said in a statement.

"This will put the stamp of international approval for Beijing's human rights abuses and will encourage China to escalate its repression," said the statement swiftly issued from the government's exiled seat in the northern Indian hill station of Dharamsala.

It was among the first international reactions to the decision.

The IOC representatives who voted for Beijing's bid would now have to take responsibility for the suffering that "will certainly be unleashed" by the Chinese government, which "will assume it has received international permission for its horrendous repression," Thetong said.

The IOC decision had, in a single act, "erased the memory" of millions of Chinese who died during the Great Leap Forward era in the 1950s, the atrocities of the Cultural Revolution, the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre "and the 1.2 million Tibetans who died in the Chinese occupation of Tibet," he added.

Beijing had carried out a sophisticated bid, hiring top public relations companies in both the United States and Europe, to promote their campaign. They also had the behind the scenes support of IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

In the run-up to Friday's vote, anti-Beijing protesters had bombarded IOC members by fax, e-mail and letters, demanding they reject the Chinese capital—a move that backfired.

"The IOC does not like being told what to do either by politicians or political groups," one IOC member told AFP. "The more such groups tell us what to do, the more likely we will go the other way."

Right up to the eve of the vote, secretary general of Beijing's bid Wang Wei, was forced to defend the country's human rights record.

"The human rights conditions in China have improved in the last 50 years, especially in the 1990s with the reform and opening policies," argued Wang.

"We are confident that with the games coming to China we are going to not only promote the economy, but also enhance all social sectors including education, medical care and human rights."

The dilemma facing the IOC members was summed up by IOC marketing guru Dick Pound shortly before the decision was taken in a heavily protected Moscow World Trade Center: Would China advance if they won the Games or would they instead use the Games as a propaganda coup and do nothing?

"You have to recognize or look at the situation as if it is a glass half-empty or half-full," said the 59-year-old lawyer, who on Monday will learn whether he has won the election to succeed Samaranch.

The members decided on Friday the glass was half-full.

AFP

Sex tours, security fears hamper Asean tourism

PHNOM PENH—Personal security, child prostitution and human smuggling were touted as among the biggest threats to growth within Asia's tourism industry at a conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations here.

Perceptions of some countries being havens for pedophilia could tarnish other nations within the regional group, delegates to a conference of Asean national tourism organizations were told Thursday.

"We want people to come here, not for the sex, but for the adventure, for the underwater sea life which is the best in the world and the exotic islands," said Sheikh Jamaluddin Mohamad, director general of Brunei Tourism.

Some Asean countries have become known as prime destinations for sex holidays.

Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand have been singled out by recent media reports which Asad Shiraz, a senior director with the Singapore Tourism Board, said had prompted "much to talk about" at the conference.

With Asean promoting itself as a single destination, there was a risk that the pedophilia reputation of some countries could spread to others, he said.

"It must not be allowed to become the only issue of appeal for a destination in Asean. We must be committed to enforcement and to communicating our feelings about this," Shiraz said.

Among the documents tabled at the conference was a report containing serious concerns made by Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei and Cambodia surrounding child prostitution and human trafficking.

The report also listed the Abu Sayyaf group, which has kidnapped and ransomed scores of hostages in the southern Philippines, and civil unrest in Indonesia, as being a further risk to perceptions of Asean as a single tourist destination point.

Jamaluddin noted the problems in Indonesia and the Philippines were localized to particular areas.

"There are 7,000 islands in the Philippines and another 20,000 in Indonesia alone. It's just a part of life unfortunately that these problems come up but we have to get on with it and there are many other places to go," he said. *AFP*

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‘What was Greggy whispering to Gloria?’

WHAT could President Macapagal-Arroyo and husband Mike Arroyo have been doing in a huddle with Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III, husband of Irene Marcos, in an upscale hotel bar in Makati?

This was the question former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez posed on Pointblank, a late-night talk show on the ANC channel, where he revealed that the First Couple had been seen twice with Araneta in Conway's Bar at the Shangri-La Makati. Araneta and Mike Arroyo are distant relatives.

Chavez said he was not imputing any "bad motive" insofar as the President was concerned, adding that "she may have gone there for some peace of mind, to listen to the music together with her husband."

But Chavez, who has been recently deputized as special counsel to help in the Marcos wealth investigation, also said the purported encounters "generate a lot of questions."

He said five men, mostly businessmen, had seen the First Couple with Araneta in Conway's on at least two separate occasions in May and June. *Donna Cueto and Juliet Javellana*

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Lawmakers won’t back wage hike

CONGRESS is not likely going to pass a law that would provide for a P125 across-the-board wage increase for workers.

This was disclosed by Rep. Jose de Venecia (Lakas, Pangasinan) who said the leaders of the various political parties feel a legislated wage hike was not necessary at this time but should be left up to the regional wage boards.

"(House leaders) favor a wage increase but this should be decided by the regional wage boards," De Venecia said.

He said the RWBs are in a better position to determine how much of an increase to recommend in their respective regions. *Rocky Nazareno*

Metro area has highest number of dengue cases

THE CONCENTRATION of dengue cases in Manila, Caloocan and Quezon City makes Metro Manila the region most affected by the fever caused by the *Aedes egypti* mosquito.

Zamboanga del Sur is now suffering a dengue fever outbreak, according to the regional epidemiology and surveillance unit in Western Mindanao.

The health department yesterday reported that the dengue fever death toll has reached 42. The nationwide figure of cases is 4,474.

The regions with the highest number of cases are Metro Manila with 1,151 and Central Visayas with 986. The victims range in age from one month to 74 years.

Majority of the patients, however, belong to the 1 to 9-year-old age bracket.

Health authorities said the number of cases is still within the expected range for most regions except Central Visayas, Southern Mindanao and Central Mindanao where last month the number of cases was higher than expected.

The Metro Manila areas most affected are Malaria, Tala, Bagong Barrio and Bagong Silang in Caloocan City; Sauyo Road in Novaliches, Quezon City; Malaya Street in Tondo, Manila; Karuhatan, Marulas and Ugong in Valenzuela.

Clustering was also noted in Banago, Mandalangan, Taculing and Tangub in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, which accounted for most of the cases in the Central Visayas region.

San Pablo City in Laguna is being closely being monitored by the health department which has been receiving reports that the number of cases there has been rising over the past two weeks.

Dengue outbreaks usually have a cycle of three years. The last time there was an alarmingly large number of cases was in 1998. *Norman Bordadora*

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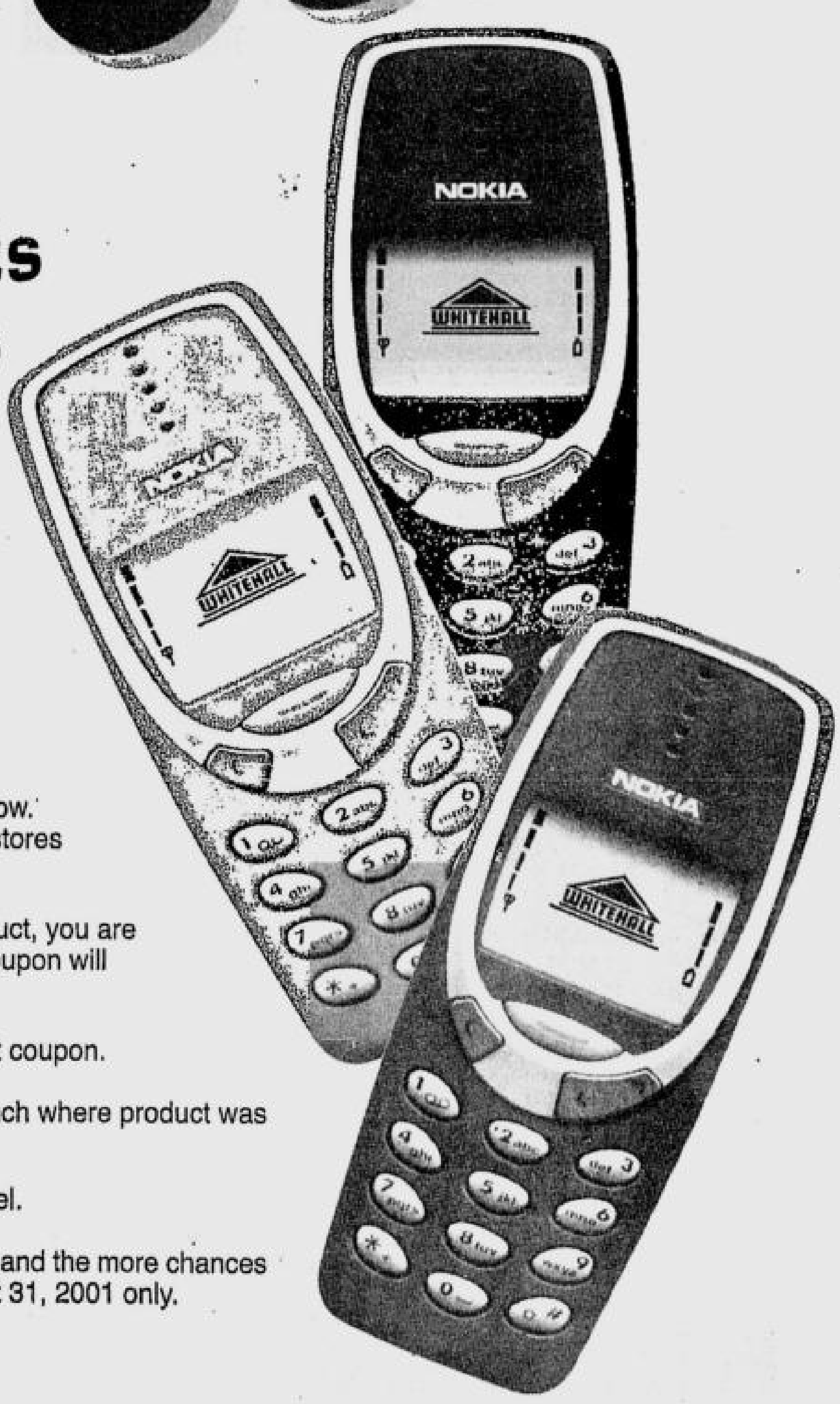

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GMA scored for supporting Philip Morris

By Norman Bordadora

RUNNING priest Fr. Robert Reyes yesterday castigated President Macapagal-Arroyo for gracing the groundbreaking rites of Philip Morris' P16-billion factory in Batangas.

Reyes accused the President of selling out public health welfare in exchange for millions of dollars in foreign investment.

"Our President Gloria who does not smoke wants Philip Morris and Lucio Tan around. Why? Because they are good business partners. Is she and Yosi Kadiri (the mascot of the health department's anti-smoking campaign) friends after all?" Reyes said in a statement.

Philip Morris, the world's largest cigarette manufacturer, is setting up a $300-million facility on a 25-ha lot at the First Philippine Industrial Park in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

The President graced the inauguration rites of the plant, which will be fully operational in 2003 and will become Philip Morris' regional hub.

Reyes said Philip Morris executives boast that their $300-million investment in the Philippines was the largest in Asia was empty as cigarette manufacturing is a dying industry.

"Behind the apparent optimism is an obvious lie. Philip Morris is dying in the United States and other parts of the world. Other Asian countries have rejected the offer to build the $300-million Philip Morris plant…," Reyes said.

But he noted that cigarettes still sell well in the Philippines.

Reyes then congratulated Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit for staying away from the inauguration of what he called a "cancer and emphysema plant."

BIR chief rapped for violating ban

BUREAU of Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez is facing a complaint before the Commission on Elections for alleged violation of the ban on the transfer of personnel during the election period.

This after the Philippine Association of Revenue District Officers (Pardo), charged Bañez with violating election laws when he issued on May 24 a Travel Assignment Order reshuffling 71 BIR personnel.

The group said Bañez's order violated Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code, which prohibits the movement of any government employee 45 days before and 30 days after Election Day.

Deputy Commissioner Lilian Hefti was also named a respondent since she also signed the order.

Violation of the election provision carries a penalty of up to six years imprisonment.

The association had earlier a P1-billion plunder case against Bañez before the Ombudsman.

In that case, Bañez was accused of conspiring with the late BIR Commissioner Beethhoven Rualo to defraud the government of P1.06 billion in documentary stamps.

Pardo claimed that instead of accounting for the documentary stamps, Rualo and Bañez issued a BIR ruling on Jan. 5, 2000 granting tax exemptions to the Bases Conversion Development

Authority, the Bonifacio Land Corp. and the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

Bañez, in an interview, dismissed the election complaint as a "hatchet job" against him.

He said the reshuffle was legal since the assignment order was enforced after the Comelec ban had lapsed.

Bikers can zoom along tollways

MOTORCYCLE riders are now allowed on the tollways.

In a writ of preliminary injunction, the Makati Regional Trial Court ruled that motorcyclists have legal right as licensed motorists to use the tollways.

In the five-page decision, Judge Teofilo L. Guadiz Jr. said that respondent Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) has no power or authority to ban motorcycles from expressways and "therefore, the ban in the expressways on motorcycles is void and illegal."

The judge also cited the predicament of the motorcyclist-petitioners who are forced to use the more dangerous side roads in their travels as a result of the motorcycle ban.

Several motorcycle clubs, representing over 5,000 members, initiated the court action against the TRB-imposed motorcycle ban in January. The petitioners alleged that the ban was illegal under existing law and that it threatened public safety by forcing all motorcyclists onto alternative roadways that are clearly not as safe as the tollways.

By removing the ban, the likelihood of motorcycle-involved accidents, already less than one percent of total vehicular accidents in 1999 based on TMG and LTO statistics, is expected to be reduced even further.

'Three corners of my world are now gone'

(From page A1)

"We had so many plans together and we had just decided to bring our dreams to life," Gonzales said. "Unfortunately on Tuesday night, they were all taken away."

He described his father Teddy, an immigration lawyer, as his "hero and role model."

"I admire him in every way possible and my greatest aim was to one day become at least half the man that he was. I'd always said that if I were ever to have a son, I would name him after my father," he said.

He said his mother, Lowiva, was "the heart of the family."

"We've always confided in each other as best of friends and she made it seem that nothing was impossible. No problem seemed unsolvable. She had given her life meaning through sharing her strong faith in God."

He referred to Clodine, who turned 18 on Monday and "was just beginning to bloom," as the "life in the family."

"She always told me that I was more talented than her and that she looked up to me . . . I never got the chance to tell her that I looked up to her. She had so many qualities that many people including myself envied. But she (will) always be my baby sister," Gonzales said.

The Philippine consulate in Sydney faxed a transcript of Gonzales' statement to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

'Frustrating'

Detective Inspector Geoff Leonard of Strike Force Tawas, formed by Australian police to investigate the crime, said the law student was assisting the investigation as best he could.

"Young Sef and his family have cooperated with the investigators at this stage and we're satisfied with the explanation so far," Leonard said.

"We're continuing our inquiries. We're keeping an open mind in relation to various lines of inquiry."

Detectives believe Sef's father may have disturbed whoever killed his wife and daughter, before he himself was murdered.

"It's still not clear, the motive for this terrible crime," Leonard said. "Yes, it is frustrating."

The inspector told the Sydney Morning Herald that investigators were also examining any possible links between the murders and Teddy Gonzales' work as an immigration lawyer.

"We're certainly looking at his practice there," Leonard said.

Sef found his parents and sister stabbed to death. His mother's and sister's throats had been cut. Australian police have described the murder scene as one of the worst they have ever encountered.

Manila involved

The DFA and the Australian Embassy in Manila said the Philippine government would still be involved in the case even though the Gonzaleses were naturalized Australian citizens.

"Whether they're Australian nationals, they are still formerly Filipino citizens so we will extend whatever help we can," Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. said in an interview.

He described the massacre as "an act, which only people with a sick mind can do."

He also expressed confidence that the Australian police would "not (leave) any stone unturned in its efforts to determine the motive and the identity of the suspects."

In a statement, the Australian Embassy in Manila offered its "deepest sympathy to the relatives of three Australians, originally from the Philippines, who were tragically killed in Sydney earlier this week."

The Sydney Morning Herald quoted Leonard, the detective, as saying that post-mortem examinations on the three bodies would not be completed until Friday and would not speculate on the causes of death.

Leonard also would not comment on the reported racist message, would not confirm that the house had been ransacked and said forensic examination of the building would take several days.

Hate crimes

Guingona said that there was no need for the Filipino community in Sydney to be alarmed about reports that the massacre might be a racist crime.

"It's just speculation," he said.

But Senate Pro-Tempore Blas Ople, chair of the Senate committee on foreign affairs, warned against the possible rise of "hate crimes" abroad.

In a press briefing, Ople said the DFA should issue an advisory to all Filipino overseas communities, especially those living in Western countries, cautioning them about a supposed surge in hate crimes.

Ople, an opposition senator, also urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to direct the DFA and the justice department to send a National Bureau of Investigation team to Sydney to participate in the investigation there.

"This is the only way the government can declare solidarity with the family and kin of our murdered countrymen," he said.

'Hasty'

Sen. Gregorio Honasan echoed the call, but warned against people making "hasty and unfounded accusations" about alleged anti-Asian sentiment in Sydney.

"I believe that generally, the Australians are a peace-loving people and we cannot just point an accusing finger to anybody, may he be an Australian or even a Filipino," he said.

Oscar Landicho, a Filipino journalist working in New South Wales faxed a press release to Manila papers saying "many Filipinos here have ruled out racism or discrimination as motives for the murder."

Landicho said he had learned that Gonzales received a death threat earlier this year from the Philippines, but named no sources and provided no details except to say the threat was probably business-related.

Threat to trade deals

In Baguio City, the Gonzales family's hometown, businessmen expressed concern about the possibility that the murders were racist killings, claiming attacks on Filipinos could damage trade in Australia.

The Baguio-Benguet Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BBCCI) completed a series of trade missions to Sydney in 1999, sealing deals in mining, real estate, housing, silver trade and design with Australian investors, said chamber councilor Delfin Balajadia.

He said all these trade contracts would require some measure of "mutual stability" between the Australians and the Filipinos.

"Business is never racist. If you are a real businessman you will trade with anyone whether he is red, yellow, black or green. But if this is true, then businessmen here will be more cautious about dealing with Australia. I know about racial attacks in Australia but they targeted other Asians such as the Chinese, not Filipinos," said Carlos Honorio Estepa, a childhood friend of Gonzales and the Cordillera governor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

Appeal from detectives

The Sydney Morning Herald reported another appeal by investigators for relevant information from the Australian public.

"Specifically, they want anyone who saw Mr. Gonzales in his white Mitsubishi Pajero, with personalized plates TED 11G, between Blacktown and North Ryde on Tuesday evening," the newspaper said.

Gonzales' law office was in Blacktown.

Gonzales, a successful lawyer specializing in immigration matters, was known to leave his office in Kildare Road, Blacktown, about 6 p.m. each day for the hour-long drive home, according to the Herald.

Ms Gonzales, who worked with her husband, is believed to have driven home in her vehicle about 4:55 p.m., the report said, adding that Clodine, a student in Melbourne, had been in the house during the day, but police were still trying to confirm her movements.

Sef had also been at the office that day, the Herald reported.

'Why they left Baguio'

The Gonzales family, devout Catholics who migrated from the Philippines in 1991, had moved from Blacktown to their newly built home in Collins Street, North Ryde, only last year.

The INQUIRER learned that Clodine was nearly crushed by a falling wall on July 16, 1990 when a killer earthquake struck Baguio and Northern Luzon.

"Teddy was very frightened for the child and that was why he decided to leave the city, the Philippines and forget that ever happened," a friend of the family said.

Antonio Curameng, director of DFA's consular affairs division, said that four relatives of the Gonzaleses were scheduled to fly to Sydney last night.

They are Ted Gonzales' sister-in-law Monica and her daughter Racquel; and Lowiva's sister Annie Claridades-Paraan and her husband Ronaldo. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Armand N. Nocum; AFP*

US not keen . . .

(From page A1)

to stress that Washington was not seeking the reestablishment of military bases in the country.

"What we are looking for are flexible arrangements so that we can work together on the challenges of the future," Blair said.

Blair fielded questions in a joint press conference yesterday with Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in Camp Aguinaldo following the conclusion of the 43rd anniversary meeting of the RP-US Mutual Defense Board (MDB).

Blair was evasive when asked what he thought was the single biggest security threat in the region.

Blair, however, conceded that "terrorism is certainly part of the picture."

But militant group Pamalakaya said that "The Basilan agenda is just a 'cover story.' Blair is up for something big. We can probably call it a 'Blair Witch' Project which intends to solidify US control of the government and its local armed forces."

Blair emphatically said "no" twice when asked if the United States still regarded Subic as a strategic point.

Subic once served as the hub of American naval activities in the region and was complemented by the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

The bases were closed down in 1992 following the Philippine Senate's rejection of a new basing treaty, ending nearly a century of American military presence in the country.

Blair said his government was keen on plans allowing both countries to "operate together quickly," to share intelligence "so that we have the same picture of the environment" and to undertake "realistic exercises."

"These are what we are working on together and not the reestablishment of a US base in the future," Blair said.

A recent study by the American think tank Rand Corp. said the Philippines would play a greater role in American security concerns in the Asia-Pacific region.

But Blair stressed that whatever plans the United States had, "those do not include any request by the US government for bases in the Philippines like the kind that we had in the past."

"We are not looking for the reestablishment or establishment of US bases in the Philippines where you have US forces," he said.

Blair said it did not matter whether this kind of arrangement constituted what was previously proposed as an "Access and Cross Servicing Agreement."

"I think the name is less important than the actual way we can cooperate," he said.

Blair pointed out that the military relationship between the United States and the Philippines, once based on Cold War conditions, had evolved into one that could meet new challenges.

These include peacekeeping missions in third world countries like East Timor, transnational crimes, drugs and international terrorism.

Villanueva, for his part, said the MDB meeting tackled procedures and policies relating to US military assistance, training, flow of logistics and joint military planning.

"It is of great pride and optimism that I note that our relationship with the United States is stronger than ever," Villanueva said.

The MDB is co-chaired by the US Commander in Chief of the Pacific Command and the AFP Chief of Staff.

The board was created to facilitate exchanges relating to the 1951 RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty.

Militant groups urged the Macapagal administration to abrogate the treaty.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said the abrogation of the treaty would keep the Philippines out of any military conflict in the region that the United States might be involved in.

"It is about time to assert national sovereignty and junk this 'slave-master' relationship with the United States," Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon said.

Sambajon said Blair might have a sinister agenda other than the regular defense board meeting and concern for the American hostages being held by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

The militants' apprehension came after US defense analysts recently reported that America must improve its military presence in Southeast Asia because of the growing economic and military might of China.

Yesterday afternoon, Blair paid a courtesy call on Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. and raised concern over the Spratlys territorial dispute in the South China Sea.

Sources said Blair commented that they were getting "mixed signals" from China on the Spratlys dispute, which is seen as a potential flash point in the region.

ONCE described by the composer Antonio Carlos Jobim as God's own creature, Helo Pinheiro, is now 54. AP

'The Girl from Ipanema'

(From page A1)

Pinheiro for using the 1962 song.

According to a copy of the lawsuit faxed to the Associated Press by Pinheiro's lawyer, the estates are accusing her of "unjustly profiting from the image and the work of the late composers."

As of press time, representatives of the songwriters' estates could not be reached for comment.

The suit, filed in civil court in Sao Paulo on May 24, conceded that Pinheiro inspired the famed song but, it said, "she doesn't have the legitimacy to use, at her pleasure, the work and images of Tom Jobim and of Vinicius Moraes as she has been doing."

Jobim is known as "Tom" in Brazil.

The suit cited as examples of the supposed exploitation a popular T-shirt featuring a picture of Pinheiro with the song's lyrics written in the background and the clothing store called "The Girl from Ipanema" that she opened recently in a Sao Paulo mall.

"I think that they want compensation for the store's name. The song is theirs, they own the rights and that's okay," Pinheiro said. "But I was the muse behind it. If I hadn't inspired the song, it wouldn't have been written."

Then known as Heloisa Eneida, Pinheiro became famous across Brazil 36 years ago when lyricist Moraes told Manchete magazine that she was the girl who inspired the hit song.

"She was a green-eyed girl, blond and dark, a mixture that is so beautiful," Jobim once said. "She was a creature of God."

Pinheiro believes that if Jobim and Moraes were still alive, they would not be suing her.

Jobim died in 1994, Moraes in 1980. *AP*

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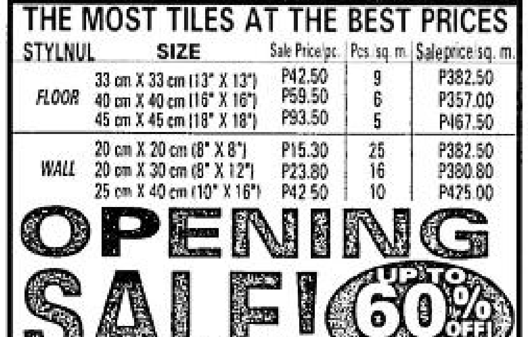

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EDITORIALS

Yorac at PCGG

HAYDEE Yorac's appointment as the new chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government comes as a jolt. It shocks us to be reminded that the PCCG is still around after 15 years of looking for the bulk of the late President Marcos' ill-gotten wealth, with little to show for the effort. The search has become like a tiger chasing its tail and ending up biting it.

We have lost count of how many chairs the PCGG has had since it was created. The records show, however, that the PCGG has had nine chairs since February 1986 when Jovito Salonga assumed the post.

The appointment of Yorac came amid fresh moves to have the PCGG abolished. Sen. Sergio Osmeña III is filing a bill seeking its abolition. "Fifteen years after its creation, the PCGG has produced little by way of accomplishments and actual results to justify its continued existence," Osmeña said in his bill. He wants to transfer its functions to the Department of Justice—a transfer that does not ensure the recovery of more Marcos wealth.

The latest episode in the search for the Marcos wealth was the confirmation early this month by German and Philippine officials that Irene Marcos-Araneta attempted to transfer several billions in US dollars to a Deutsche Bank branch in Dusseldorf, Germany, from the Union Bank of Switzerland. The Swiss bank is alleged to hold the Marcos family's laundered money. The Marcoses' laundered assets are now estimated to reach $13 billion. If this figure is accurate, then we have an idea of how little has been recovered from the Swiss banks which have so far handed over less than $1 billion worth of Marcos assets to the Philippine government.

Yorac has a reputation for integrity and tenacity. These are assets that served her well when she was a commissioner in the Commission on Elections. She will probably need more than these qualities to uncover more laundered Marcos wealth, let alone recover them. She needs more than investigative zeal to penetrate the mist that has wrapped the Marcos assets. The task that faces her is as difficult as that of archaeologists deciphering the secrets of the pharaohs entombed in the pyramids.

Two new commissioners have been appointed to beef up Yorac's team: Ruben Carranza Jr. and Victoria Avena. Both are lawyers. They have given themselves a two-year deadline "to settle the Marcos issue." We have no idea what the parameters are of the "Marcos issue." Neither do we have a clue as to how much they are targeting to recover.

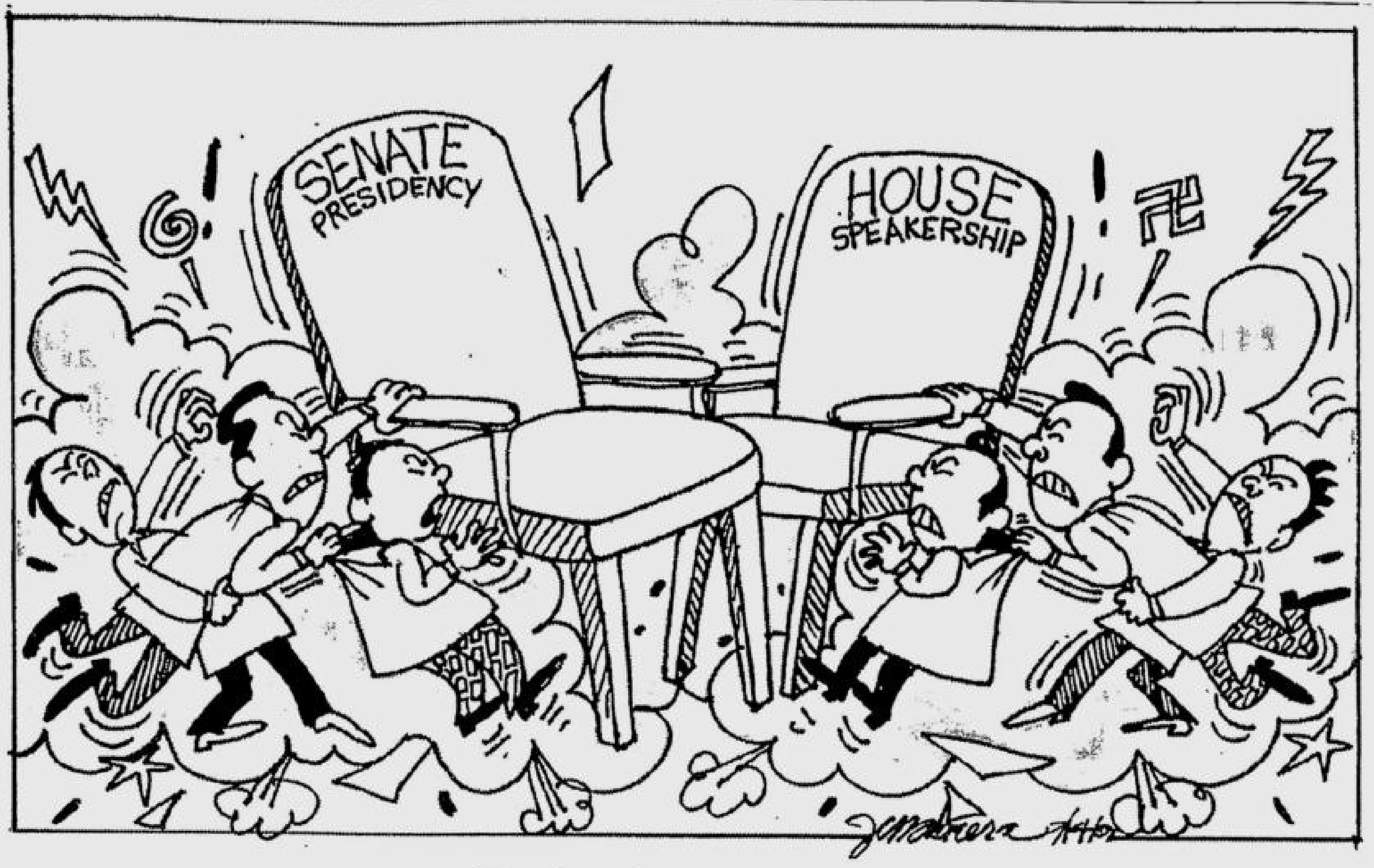
The Marcos wealth is so complex, the laundering so convoluted that a lawyer's training could come in handy for them to do a good job. But more than that, the commissioners must also be good detectives as well. While we wish Yorac success, following the disappointments of the last 15 years, the new commissioners might need more than two years to produce results. The next few months will see them just getting acquainted with their job.

All or nothing?

EVEN before the PCGG could put its hands on the bulk of the Marcos laundered wealth, with the help of a mass of evidence it has accumulated over the years, the government is confronted with another plunder case. This is, of course, the case filed by the Ombudsman against deposed President Joseph Estrada. The Estrada plunder case casts a shadow over the Marcos wealth quest, tending to make us forget the Marcos hidden assets. Yorac's intervention could have the effect of keeping alive interest in the search for Marcos' hidden wealth.

It is too early to say if Yorac's appointment will give a fresh momentum to the efforts to recover much of the Marcos wealth. Ahead of her lies the tangled path of negotiations with the Marcos family over how much of discovered wealth goes to the government and how much to the Marcoses. This has been a sensitive issue with political implications.

Obviously, the all-or-nothing approach would end up with the government gaining nothing. The question of sharing, which involves policy decisions from the Macapagal administration, will have to be addressed as one of the parameters of the PCGG's new leadership.



Delaying tactics

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE CONFIDENT estimate of Joseph Estrada's lawyers that his trial before the Sandiganbayan would take at least five years was not an empty threat. At the rate they are filing all kinds of motions, and considering the generally receptive attitude of the court toward every such motion, I would say that five years might even be only a conservative estimate.

Many a defense lawyer, especially if he knows his client is guilty, will want to delay the trial and prevent as long as possible the inevitable judgment of conviction. That is evidently the strategy of the defense panel, which even now is already crowing over its initial success in slowing down the wheels of justice. According to the latest count, Estrada's lawyers have filed no less than—count them!—68 motions. And you can bet your last centavo that there'll be more of them as the trial drags.

Most of them were motions for postponement that were granted by the Sandiganbayan as a matter of course if not inordinately. The rest raised no meritorious questions or arguments and were properly denied, but not after they were given undeserved attention by the court. A good example is the motion of the defense to inhibit Justice Anacleto Badoy for alleged bias—doubtless a shallow ground demanding no more than short shrift. That motion could have been disposed of in a paragraph or two, but it was not.

Instead, it took Justice Badoy all of 20 pages to deny the motion. A simple "Denied, for lack of merit" would have done it, following the Supreme Court ruling that "lack of merit" is sufficient to satisfy the legal justification required by the Constitution for its decisions or resolutions. There is no need to elaborate on issues already thoroughly discussed in previous cases, much less on dilatory and frivolous motions that will only waste the time of the court. And if I may add without offense, it was not necessary either for the good justice to wax poetic on a mere motion and on such a prosaic and insubstantial matter.

Another reason for filing many unnecessary motions is the attorney's fee. The lawyer whose primary motivation is to go up the financial ladder (as attributed by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to the UP graduate compared to the ideal of justice stressed by Sen. Raul Roco) will want to file as many of such motions because he can charge the client for the motions themselves and appearance fees for arguing them. This supplemental income could come up to a formidable amount which, added to the basic retainer, might impoverish even a wealthy client like Estrada.

Erap's lawyers have filed a petition for certiorari with the Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of the Plunder Law for the alleged vagueness of its provisions. Unless it is granted or dismissed outright, the petition will undergo the usual procedure, with the respondent being given 10 days to comment and the solicitor general subsequently asking for an extension because of "volume of work." These extensions could last as long as 120 days during my time but maybe they will be shorter in the present Court. Although it has a constitutional deadline of 24 months, let us hope it will act faster on the petition and not grant a TRO that will freeze the trial indefinitely. Incidentally, a similar challenge of ambiguity was raised against the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act but it was rejected by the high tribunal in the case of Gallego v. Sandiganbayan.

It is a well-known and regrettable fact that the Supreme Court, for all its posturings about the need for the speedy disposition of judicial and extrajudicial cases, has not been providing the expected leadership. The case of Flores v. People, 61 SCRA 331, to cite only one example, slept all of 23 years in the courts before it was finally dismissed by the high tribunal for violation of the petitioners' right to a speedy trial. The Supreme Court scolded the lower courts but blinked away the fact that the case slumbered in its own dockets for eight years.

The unexplained wealth case filed against the Marcos heirs by then Solicitor General Francisco Chavez in 1991 was finally decided by the Sandiganbayan last year and is now on appeal before the Supreme Court. The Marcoses are still facing 19 more corruption charges that have yet to be judged although Edsa I of 1986 has already been replicated by Edsa II. Romeo Jalosjos was convicted of statutory rape in 1998 and appealed to the Supreme Court while under detention; unable to serve his second term in Congress, he was nevertheless reelected this year but remains incarcerated in Muntinlupa. Like the Marcoses, he is still waiting for the final judgment on his case.

If the Estrada trials travel the same route as the Marcos and Jalosjos cases, we may be watching the familiar spectacle of another litigation sailing on a slow boat to China. Delay in the administration of justice remains one of the most serious shortcomings of the judiciary, not least of the Supreme Court itself. The high tribunal used to have two en banc sessions every week to enable it to cope more speedily with its caseload. Since several years ago, however, it has been meeting only once a week, presumably because its work has become lighter. Perhaps it can devote some of its spare time to the final if tardy resolution of the Marcos and Jalosjos cases.

This is the time for the reckoning of tyrants all over the world. The hitherto immune Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia is now in a prison cell at The Hague awaiting trial for his heinous crimes against humanity. The infamous 85-year-old Augusto Pinochet of Chile would have been convicted of the murder of thousands of his countrymen if the court had not held him unfit for trial because of his physical and mental condition. The embattled and already discredited Abdurrahman Wahid of Indonesia is fighting tooth and nail the mounting well nigh irresistible movement to impeach and unseat him.

Joseph Estrada is among those whose acts as the political head of his country are now being questioned before our courts of justice. Whether he is innocent or guilty will have to be determined at the trials of the many cases that have been filed against him. It is in the interest of the whole nation that such trials be commenced and completed as soon as possible and the appeals, if any, be resolved without unnecessary delay. Every Filipino is awaiting the outcome of the prosecution for the first time of an ousted President of the Philippines.

Outrage in Sydney

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

"OUTRAGE" is the word that was used by an experienced investigator in the Australian police force of New South Wales to describe the murder of Filipino-born lawyer Teddy Gonzales, his wife Mary Josephine Loiva Claridades, and their 18-year-old daughter Clodine right in their own home in a middle-class suburb of Sydney.

And so it is. An outrage. Senseless. Brutal. Horrible. Heinous. Perpetrated on a devout couple devoted to each other, with a son studying law and a daughter about to finish high school, living an ordinary middle-class or upper-middle class life, probably moving up the economic and social ladder. With everything to live for, they were cut down in their prime or before their prime.

With the message on the wall written with the blood of one of the victims, the multiple murders were uncomfortably reminiscent of Charles Manson's killing spree in the Hollywood home of film director Roman Polanski, more than three decades ago. That the victims were members of one family also brought forcibly to mind the Vizconde massacre in Parañaque a decade ago. On a scale of 10 in terms of sheer viciousness, these murders must be right at the top.

What's more, insult was apparently added to fatal injury, because the literally bloody message on the wall of the Gonzales' living room (lounge in Aussie talk) was a racial slur, which the police have refused to divulge as yet. Actually we're talking about insult heaped upon insult after fatal injury. But there's something that doesn't quite fit here.

I understand that skinheads (Ku Klux Klan members during my time)—white supremacists who are violence-prone, anyway—are usually also rednecks, meaning those with less education and working in blue collar or no-collar jobs who may think that their livelihoods are being threatened by the competition of "persons of color."

Note, however, that the Gonzales family was a well-educated one, living in a middle- or upper-middle class neighborhood. They were professionals. No threat to anyone's livelihood. No reason for racial violence.

But if indeed the crime was racially instigated, one can be sure that this case would be more the exception than the rule. Because in the first place, Australians, from what I have heard, read and experienced, are about as color-blind as a people are likely to get. In the second place, they have a very strong sense of fairness, instilled no doubt by their love of sports bordering on mania. And in the third place, Filipinos in Australia are considered to be the most accepted and respected of the minorities.

Thus I tend to agree with one of the police theories, as explained by Libran Cabactulan, our consul in Sydney, that the racial slur was written in an effort to mislead the investigators. Or it could be that the crimes were drug-induced.

So let us not have any nightmares of more racial violence to come. At least, not in Aussieland.

But that double insult was not all that was heaped on the Gonzaleses. And this time the perpetrators were not the murderers but the media. Anyone reading the papers will note that the names of the Gonzales family, with the exception of Teddy's, have been treated rather cavalierly by the press. His wife has been called either Loiva, Lowiva, or Loisa, depending on the newspaper one reads. And his 20-year-old son, who was first on the scene of the crime and who may have escaped the same fate as the rest of his family because he had apparently spent the night out with his buddies, has been variously referred to as Seth or Sef.

It is very hard to find a silver lining to this tragedy. But there is one, albeit admittedly tiny. Given this latest example of media's accuracy, maybe our Supreme Court will see it fit to reconsider its decision that forces the Filipino people to get their information on the Estrada trial second-hand—from media that sometimes cannot even be trusted to get names right.

Hopefully the Supreme Court will allow us to see and hear for ourselves what is going on, instead of making us depend on eyewitness reports from representatives of the print and broadcast media. Because guess what. According to Marichu Lambino of the UP College of Mass Communication and the Public Interest Law Center, the media are not even allowed to bring tape recorders into the Sandiganbayan courtroom. Only pen and paper will be allowed for their use.

Imagine that. To insist on pen and paper—in the electronic age when the most sophisticated audio and visual recording and transmission equipment are available. Think of the reporting mistakes that can be made—wittingly or unwittingly. One shudders at the thought of the Supreme Court using the Commission on Elections as a model for its decisions. Although to be fair to the former, it is actually the Sandiganbayan Third Division that thought up of the pen-and-paper-only-nothing-else rule.

Surely it should be clear to all that allowing the Filipino people to witness at first hand a historic proceeding with potentially tremendous impact on their lives (with either a victory or defeat for the so-called twilight zone) is a rather simple and straightforward matter. It would involve merely the setting up of four (or less) cameras and microphones (no cameramen moving around) in strategic areas in the courtroom. No fuss, no bother.

Moreover, aside from allowing the Filipino people direct access to the proceedings rather than second-hand through media reports, there is an additional benefit: Mr. Estrada's oft-repeated wish to present his case to the Filipino people and show his innocence will finally be realized.

UP community's Nanay Zafra turns 100

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE REPORT that about 60 members of Congress have decided to fight the speakership bid of Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia by supporting Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad appears to be a *suntok sa buwan.* From all indications, De Venecia is already the winner. As in the world of diplomacy, the world of politics operates by symbols. Last Thursday evening, De Venecia hosted a dinner for the female members of the incoming House of Representatives at the Manila Polo Club, and out of the 36 members, 28 showed up, including those from the opposition. More importantly, I gathered that President Macapagal made a brief appearance at that dinner. Does that indicate anointment?

On the eve of the opening of Congress, De Venecia is already acting like the winner. This Tuesday he will host a dinner at his residence for all his House colleagues.

* * *

Lakas Sen. Renato Cayetano, one of the aspirants for the Senate presidency, called up to find out exactly what I meant when I wrote that he has a "personality problem." I told him that it was two of his colleagues who cited this "problem" as a stumbling block to his ambition, but he said that he's now being ribbed by his colleagues about it. "*Baka parang* Miriam *ang tingin sa iyo,*" they teased. I told him that definitely he cannot aspire for that distinction since Miriam Defensor-Santiago is in a class by herself. I opined that what his colleagues mean is that he is sometimes difficult to fathom.

Cayetano stressed that while he and Sen. Frank Drilon have failed to reach an agreement during a recent meeting arranged by Sen. Juan Flavier, there is "no danger" of the Senate leadership falling to the opposition. "We will not allow that to happen," said the Lakas stalwart.

* * *

Cayetano admitted that his PPC colleagues and Lakas leaders have come up with various proposals to break the impasse, such as power-sharing and holding a straw vote. His own idea, however, is "to go through the PPC process," which means that anyone who gets the vote of the majority of the 12 PPC members should be supported by all.

Cayetano is, of course, banking on his hold on his three fellow Lakas senators whose bloc is now being pitted against the other power PPC bloc composed of the new senators who came from the House. This bloc, which is backing Joker Arroyo, is perhaps the most assiduously courted in the Senate now.

And how is your relationship with Joker? I queried Cayetano. "*Parang* TV—on and off," he said with a laugh.

* * *

Actually, if these two groups could get together, they would have immediately eight votes. From what I gather, Senators Ramon Magsaysay and Serge Osmeña are informally with the Lakas group too, and there's talk that Noli de Castro would ally with them too. If this is the case, then Sen. Ramon Revilla and his son-in-law Robert Jaworski could conceivably join them to make a simple majority of 13 votes. Revilla has been quoted as saying that any group that has 11 votes would get their two votes.

One thing going for Cayetano, said one senator, is that he's so *masipag* in courting his colleagues. *Mukhang* serious *si* Cayetano, but if President Macapagal is backing Drilon, that's a factor one cannot ignore.

* * *

I haven't known too many people who celebrated their 100th birth anniversary. The most celebrated centenarian is the United Kingdom's Queen Mother Elizabeth, and then there was the late wife of former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Mariano Castañeda, who was fondly known to all of us as "Mommy Castañeda." Last Thursday another lovely lady, whom the entire UP community has called "Nanay" for several generations now, celebrated her 100th birthday, but the big bash will be held at the QC Sports Club tomorrow, starting with an 11 a.m. Mass. Prof. Luz Alzona Zafra, widow of the late UP history professor, Dr. Nicolas Zafra, and a member of the distinguished Alzona family that gave birth to one of the earliest feminists, her sister Encarnacion Alzona, was one of the earliest UP graduates. Luz became the first principal of the Far Eastern University Girls' High School and dean of the Institute of Education.

The Zafras were among the first families to move out to UP Diliman in 1949. According to her daughter, Fely Zafra-Reyes, this was how Nanay started serving the UP community: first as a "real-life *labandera*" to legendary UP chaplain John P. Delaney, then as a surrogate mother to countless students put in her care by Delaney. After Father Delaney died, she "inherited" all the other chaplains who came after him, such as Fr. Pacifico Ortiz, S.J. Countless UPSCAns, including this columnist, became close to her, and many of her *alaga* became the leaven in their own communities around the country and went on to become very distinguished in their fields.

* * *

The certificate of recognition given to her by the UP Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, signed by chaplain Fr. Robert Reyes and NVM Gonzalez's widow, Narita, chair of the parish's "Tuesday Club," says it for us all: "For having inspired and touched the lives of those who have met her; for being a role model of true Catholic womanhood; for serving as one of the leaders and supporters of the Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice Catholic Community; for continuing to be active in her retired professional life as maker of altar linen and rosaries distributed among different groups all over the Philippines and in the process, gaining the honor of being called 'Nanay' of the UP Diliman Catholic Community and deserving to be called 'Nanay ng Bayan.'"

* * *

Today, at 100 years, her ears are bad and her knees have weakened, but Nanay Z. remains healthy. Several years ago she fell flat on her back and had a partial hip replacement, but in two days she walked—because her doctor said so. She is still able to thread a needle and still sews church linens for parishes as far away as Europe, the United States and now Sydney where an *apo* lives. One secret of her phenomenal longevity is that Nanay remains involved in projects as well as others' lives. She receives a lot of mail from friends which she answers by hand, and Fely Reyes swears her mother's handwriting is still better than hers. Another secret of Nanay's long life is her deep faith in God and her piety: she goes to Mass three times a week and attends the Holy Hour at the Sta. Clara convent or at the Sta. Maria della Strada Church. *Mabuhay ka,* Nanay Zafra.

* * *

This column has been helping the Carmelites with the publicity for their Diamond Jubilee lecture series, featuring distinguished religious and secular speakers. The Carmelites wish to announce that the lecture originally scheduled for Monday, July 16 of the distinguished theologian, Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J., at the Ateneo de Manila, has been moved to September. Readers, please be properly advised.

Ways to check if Ador is lying

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FRIENDS and I were talking about "Ador," the alleged former PAOCTF civilian agent who's been "regaling" the public with stories of the horrors he's seen and heard.

But because we're essentially shallow persons, we ended up talking about Ador's appearance. "I was wondering what he was hiding behind his mask," said one, "and I laughed when he finally showed his face. It was his chin *pala!*"

"Could it be," said another one, "that it got that way because he's been telling so many lies? You know, like Pinocchio, only in his case, it's his chin that grows longer with every lie!"

We all had a good laugh at that, but of course Ador's "revelations" are no laughing matter, if true, and especially if not true.

Someone who's finding no humor at all in the situation is Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the apparent target of Ador's allegations. "I don't know him at all," the senator declared over a dinner he hosted some days ago. "When he finally showed his face, I didn't recognize him. I had no idea who he is." By now, though, Lacson and his men have done some background checking and so they have an idea of Ador's identity and the life he led before he catapulted himself to the headlines.

The trouble with witnesses like Ador, who's been fearlessly spewing all that he claims to know to the media without bothering apparently to put it down in a formal statement, is that the public is left to sift through his information without any idea whether he's telling the truth or lying outright. It becomes a contest of credibility between Ador and his handlers in the ISAFP, and Lacson and his other co-accused, including, not to forget, Interior Secretary Joey Lina whose brother was fingered by Ador.

* * *

SO is Ador a courageous whistle-blower, or a petty criminal making up stories to stay in the spotlight?

Lacson says it should be easy enough for law enforcement agencies to counter-check Ador's information. They could, for instance, try loading 13 kilos of shabu in a backpack, which Ador claims he did to deliver to Lacson. "There's no way you could fit 13 kilos of bags in the average backpack," says the senator.

Should the opposition clinch the Senate presidency, Lacson says he will ask to chair the committee on public order and make a hearing on the allegations aired by Ador a priority. "I have so many questions to ask him," says the senator. "I can ask him what my office looks like, who my secretary is, who my staff were. If he were really working on the inside with us, he should know these things."

The real wonder is why Ador's handlers don't ask him these things now, by way of checking the veracity of his statements. A lie detector test could test whether one is telling the truth or not, but only if the person is not used to lying. And what if he's making up stories but has somehow ended up believing he's telling the truth?

An even better course would have been for Ador's handlers to have checked his statements with supporting testimony, physical evidence or even just logic and factual possibility before allowing him to air his revelations before the media. It isn't just Lacson or the Erap minions who stand to be embarrassed by the revelations. If Ador is shown up to be a charlatan, then damage would have been done to the credibility of the entire Macapagal administration.

Remember the fate of the boy who cried wolf.

* * *

THERE are those, though, who have chosen to swallow Ador's story whole. The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, who seem to have found a new cause to rally around, have formed the "Justice for Edgar Bentain Movement." Impelled by Ador's detailed story about how the former Pagcor dealer was executed, they marched in the streets with a macabre "effigy" of the missing man.

As Ador described it, Bentain was stuffed into a steel drum filled with wet cement up to his neck, and was buried alive in the lahar fields of Pampanga. Certainly, the effigy the anti-crime group displayed was a graphic representation of Bentain's last moments. One couldn't gaze upon images of it without turning away or squirming in discomfort.

I fully agree with Today columnist Dan Mariano. It was the height of cruelty and sadism for the group's leaders to have forced Bentain's young son to stand beside this grotesque symbol and pose for news photographers. Even if—especially if—this was how the boy's father really died, it was unnecessary torture and traumatic for the child. What could they have been thinking? And why did the boy's relatives, including his uncle, allow this to happen?

For all we know, Ador could be telling the truth. There may in fact be good reason to raise hell now to see to it that justice is done. A telling question is, who could have wanted Bentain dead, if not those who had reason to resent his leaking a videotape of the former president gambling inside the state-run casino?

But in the case of the young Bentain, the end does not justify the means. There are enough victims in this case. There's no need to create one more just for the sake of publicity.

Sources of information

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

OF course there are those documents in our National Archives that constitute a rich source of information. But how many people would bother to learn Spanish so that they could read them? I'm afraid that at the rate we're going, the Archives will keep its secrets.

References to the first 200 years of Spanish domination are mostly confined to the Friar chronicles, some of which (like P. Chirino, Murillo-Velarde and Delgado) are found translated from the original Spanish in Blair and Robertson's 55 volumes. On the other hand, Dr. Henry Scott sought information from dictionaries, again compiled by the friars, and there are present-day scholars who are now following his example. (Fr. Jose Arcilla for instance avers that there is no word for family, justice or freedom in those early dictionaries, which in itself reveals something about the society of the time.)

Some critics claim that the early history of this country is a history of Spain in the Philippines rather than the Philippines itself. However, no alternative source of information is given in their stead.

Antonio Pigafetta who was with Magellan and managed to make it back with P. Urdaneta and Sebastian El Cano, wrote his account of the first circumnavigation of the globe in his book, "Primo Giorno" (which is all about Humabon and Tupas and the jewelry and Lapu-Lapu, and Magellan not minding his own business). This can also be found in Blair and Robertson together with selections of Dr. Antonio de Morga's "Sucesos de las Islas." Written in the last half of the 16th century, the latter has excellent and entertaining accounts of the Philippines of that period. Morga covers the first encounter with the Dutch and the sinking of the galleon San Diego, some of whose cargo are now on exhibit at the National Museum. A translation of Adm. Oliver Van Noort's version would be useful to balance Morga's accounts of the San Diego debacle, but I imagine both accounts should be taken with a grain of salt.

Volume V of Gemelli Careri's six-volume "Giro del Mundo" on his travels around the world devotes itself to the Philippines but isn't readily available. By the 18th century, there appears to have been more travelers who in turn wrote accounts of their travels like G. Dampier and Guillaume Le Gentil.

The 19th century certainly had more, including Paul de Gironiere who resigned from the French navy and married a young widow, the Marquesa de Salinas (a Perez de Tagle) and acquired 2,400 hectares of land in Jala-Jala to establish a hacienda. In 1853 he published "20 Years in the Philippines" followed by "Adventures of a Breton Gentleman in the Philippines" in 1855.

Another Frenchman, Dr. Jean Mallat, also wrote of his experiences in the Philippines from 1838 to 1848 in his "The Philippines, History, Geography, Customs" published in 1846. Mallat deals with the people, geography as well as the climate, the flora and fauna, the civil and judicial structures, the religious and the military hierarchies, education, agriculture, industry and commerce.

Robert MacMiking, a Scotsman, is the author of "Recollections of Manila" which was reprinted in 1967 by the Filipiniana Book Guild. It describes the entry into the port of Manila, the population of Intramuros, the Chinese merchants, abuses in government and, of course, the power of the religious.

Sir John Bowring's "A Visit to the Philippine Islands" (1859) was also reprinted by the Filipiniana Book Guild. Bowring was a linguist and worked for the English government as governor of Hong Kong when he came over on a visit. Since he visited several provinces, we have accounts of provincial life during the mid-19th century and the people who inhabited them.

Unfortunately none of these books can be found in ordinary bookstores but only in the Filipiniana section of specialized libraries. But how would people find the time to visit libraries?

One of the most interesting is Sinibaldo de Mas' third volume, which was meant only for government officials and kept under wraps for many years. Here he suggests among other reforms that if Spain wanted to keep the Philippines all schools should be closed! (He could have added that almost as effective as no education is miseducation or a poor standard of education and malnutrition also known as How to Keep the Poor Poor.)

Rafael Diaz-Arenas' "Memorias historicas y estadisticas de Filipinas particularmente de la grande isla de Luzon" (unfortunately untranslated) merits attention because it is a first-hand account of a resident. Being a government official, he met archbishops and governors as well as ordinary folk like the painter Lozano and his father.

Diaz-Arenas describes life in Manila of the *mestizo sangleys* and the *mestizo españoles* who are now better off than long-time resident *peninsulares.* The *mestizos* control the industries—the dyes, alcohol, rope, jewelry, naval and urban constructions, textiles of all kinds, manufacture of vehicles.

He mentions the newspapers and the commercial houses: Russell & Sturgis, Peele Hubbell, Kerr & Co., Swiss and French businessmen. He also lists subscribers to El Diario de Manila, among them Dr. Pedro Pelaez, the parish priest of Cabuyao, and Don Mariano Gomez who would soon figure in the ecclesiastical tragedy, a precursor of 1896.

If you're interested in the history of this country, don't rely on anybody else's opinion (including mine). Look up your own sources and draw your own conclusions.

The long ride

I RARELY take the MRT. I do so only in life-and-death (for the next few hours, at least) situations.

I deliberately take the long route to work—by bus. Call me crazy, but I do this for my soul: my bus rides are the most therapeutic moments of my day. When I am on a bus, I remember my dreams, I cook up story lines, I plot vengeance, I pray for this street hawker or that sampaguita vendor or that frail old woman crossing the street. I unleash my mind, my only limit being the point called getting there and getting off.

YOUNGBLOOD

C.L.B

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I look at people waiting for their rides. It is amazing how you can measure the degree of timidity or aggression in people from a bus window. Some people rush to meet the bus, certain that this bus has the right *ibabaw-ilalim* configuration. Others approach cautiously, a one-foot-in-the-other-foot-out expression on their faces.

Walt Whitman's poems about ordinary people and the majesty in ordinary things fill my head. That man squinting in the mid-day heat, simply dressed, with graying hair and walking with the air of someone who has been following orders all his life—he is king in his children's eyes. That girl wearing a gaudy dress and shuffling along in her heavy platform shoes, her makeup melting in slow motion in the scorching heat—she is the love of someone's life. That harmless looking young man—he is the all-powerful devil himself in his battered wife's life.

Watching the inter-playing drama on the street helps me refocus. It constantly reminds me that I am not in the center of life's camera, that the spotlight is not trained on a single person. How many times have I been on the verge of bitterness because my job has become so second nature, so redundant that I could do it while singing all of Britney Spears' hits backwards? And then I see people out there looking for a job, their eyes equal parts optimism and dread, anticipation and fear. I mentally slap myself.

I eavesdrop on people's conversations. There was one girl who kept calling somebody on her cell phone. She would talk to this somebody for a few minutes (all the while giggling) and then the person at the other end would cut her off. This went on from the SSS Building (East Avenue) to Kamias: calling up, giggling breathlessly, getting cut off.

I got curious. Why couldn't this girl just stop? The person she was talking to was obviously rude!

Then I heard her saying, "*Ganyan ka naman talaga, eh. Lagi mo akong binababaan 'pag nandiyan ang asawa mo.*"

There! She was having an affair with a married man! I have nothing against mistresses (what they do is their choice), but this girl was obviously reckless at being reckless!

I once had a mega-crush who got married before I could even begin making my move, leaving me no option but to (shamelessly) daydream of being his mistress. But nowhere in my shameless imagined schemes did I repeatedly call my lover up while his wife was around.

During the pre-Edsa II days, I would spend my bus rides mentally kicking Erap and his cohorts' butts. I was angry. That man was mocking us every day with his non-performance and his unrepentant take-me-as-I-am-because-the-masses-love-me stance. I let off steam by visualizing myself planting a vicious kick on his ass. I would watch the news, holding my breath, afraid that Chavit Singson and the first brave few souls would falter in their first feeble attempt to kick the man out. Akbayan, Sanlakas and other groups would stage rallies along Edsa and I would hear comments like "*Mga walang magawa*" or "*Walang mangyayari sa mga 'yan.*" or "*Sinisiraan na naman si* Erap." With resignation, I would tell myself: God help us all. Erap will be with us for four more years because we all get what we deserve.

Of course, during the three heady days of Edsa II, I took the MRT. It wasn't a time for thinking and introspection. That crowd, with its fire and fervor, was just a faraway dream a few months earlier. Now that they were there, I had to be one with them in a rush!

It was on a bus ride when I finally walked away.

R was—and he still is—the love of my life. I first saw him in the library, sleeping. We were creatures of habit, I guess. I always sat on the same table and he would always take the table across me. We would both be there at the same time: from 1 to 4 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays. I got into the habit of watching him frown while he was studying, watching him sleep, watching him talk animatedly to his friends.

He became my classmate the next semester, and it was not long before I was scalp-to-toe in love with him. He was beautifully shy and broody, with sad eyes and quiet ways. He had a sense of humor, too. And he was the only person I knew who could get drunk the night before and still ace an exam.

I was not one to keep silent. I was champagne uncorked. The feeling had to be celebrated, not kept. And so I told him.

He just smiled and said nothing. It was a beautiful silence. I was young and I gave myself the license to be foolish and crazy. I assured myself it would only be a matter of time before we would end up with each other, somehow.

We both graduated and found jobs. He found a girlfriend and broke up with her, and I emerged unscathed from two failed pseudo-relationships. All that time, I alternately hated him, pined for him, let him go, asked myself what I saw in him anyway, then summoned the image of his face. No matter what I did, I would always end up hoping he would eventually find his way back to me.

And then a mutual friend told me he was leaving the country for good in two weeks' time. I was not prepared for the way I reacted to the news. It was as if a part of me had been wrenched, exposing a gaping hole that I didn't even know was there.

A week later I saw him as I was waiting for a ride. I looked and he was there, like magic, like I had wished him out of thin air. He was smiling, walking toward me. My heart was on wings. Destiny! I could talk to him before he left! I suppose he saw that from the look on my face and my smile...

But he just smiled, waved and walked toward a waiting bus.

I bravely walked toward my bus, too. I didn't shed a single tear. But inside, I pondered on why we always find ourselves on the fringes of the lives of the people who are the front, left and center of our lives.

We hadn't seen each other for more than a year and we probably wouldn't see each other again. But the bus was waiting and he had to catch that ride. He couldn't stop and talk. Just like that.

It was my longest bus ride, that trip from Diliman to Ortigas. I thought about the stops and what I'd been through: his silence, the waiting, the roller coaster of emotions, his girlfriend, my replacement relationships. It was a long stretch of highway and at every point during those six years, I was hoping he'd catch up with me and we'd ride off together. But he wouldn't even stop to say hi. The No. 1 person on my A-list wouldn't even stop to say goodbye.

Yes, it has been a long trip and I am finally getting off. Me and the boy with the beautiful silence—we will never take the same bus ride. Ever.

C.L.B., 25, is a graduate of the UP College of Engineering.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

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A misunderstanding of Maoism

LETTERS

AS a member of the National Democratic (ND) movement, I would like to respond to Nathan Gilbert Quimpo's essay "The revolutionary Left: Back to center stage?" published last June 24.

Quimpo enumerates the recent gains of the ND movement, observing that it appears to be moving back to the center stage of Philippine politics. He then narrates the history of the movement.

Like most "revisionist" histories of the ND movement, his account exaggerates the impact of the boycott error of 1986. He however ignores what the movement itself considers as its most disastrous errors: the slackening of ideological education among its members, which resulted in the regularization of New People's Army (NPA) combatants into platoons and battalions, separating the NPA from education and mass work and the anti-infiltration campaigns.

His main argument is that the "gains" of the ND movement "are due more to a deviation from truth, a rejection of the Maoist doctrine." Maoism is of course very important in the theory and practice of the ND movement. Quimpo says that the latter "has been putting greater emphasis on the political and urban struggles than on the military and rural struggles." He cites as evidence the successful participation of the ND movement in Edsa II, the 2001 elections and the peace negotiations, as well as the assassination of Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

This reasoning is flimsy and faulty. Victories in political and urban struggles are not reasons enough to say that the ND movement has been ignoring military and rural struggles, or that it is being forced by circumstances to do so. This does not also mean that the ND movement is deviating from or rejecting Maoism. The source of Quimpo's quandary is his understanding, which is a misunderstanding, of Maoism and the Maoist line on the armed struggle, particularly its distinction and dialectics between primary and secondary forms of struggle.

Quimpo reduces Maoism, or what he calls "Maoist doctrine," into mere military strategy. Maoism for the ND movement is more than that. It is a world-view. It is Marxism-Leninism in the era of imperialism and modern revisionism, a combination which Marx and Lenin were not able to witness and address. It is therefore wrong and misleading to pit Maoism against "non-armed popular uprising, electoral participation, peace negotiations, [and] urban partisan warfare." The latter cannot accommodate Maoism; Maoism can accommodate the latter, however, giving it only a secondary place among its priorities.

In a country such as ours—backward-agricultural and foreign-dominated—Maoism indeed "stipulates the waging of a protracted people's war in which the armed struggle would be the principal form of struggle and all other forms of struggle would be subordinate and in support of it." According to Maoism, these other forms of struggle—the open and legal struggle in urban areas—should be considered secondary. Which means that these forms are indispensable and very important, but not as important as the armed struggle. That they are considered secondary does not therefore mean that they should be ignored or that they should not be advanced.

It is from this perspective that one should assess the successful participation of the ND movement in Edsa II, the 2001 elections and the peace negotiations, as well as the Aguinaldo assassination. Do they signify a deviation from or a rejection of Maoism? No. They have not been used as primary means for seizing state power. In doing them, the ND movement did not sacrifice the armed struggle, as was proposed and done in the past. Instead, they have been used to advance the armed struggle. They signify an enlargement and advancement of Maoism, which the ND movement, as a whole, also is.

According to Quimpo, "No amount of twisting and contorting by CPP leaders to make these appear as conforming to basic Maoist tenets would be convincing. They would only end up, paraphrasing a well-known politician, looking like contortionists." He speaks with the authority of arrogance. Even the bargaining strength of the ND movement at the peace talks comes from the strength, not the weakness, of the armed struggle.

With the mode of thinking that his essay displays, there is no way for Quimpo to advance further. It would do his conscience well, however, if he stops kidding himself and cast away illusions that history is vindicating him and his "rejectionist" theses.

Is the ND movement back on center stage of Philippine politics? Yes, Quimpo himself says so.

And so is Maoism.—**R.C. ASA, 73 Jasmin St., Roxas District, Quezon City**

South Korea seeks to shame Japan

NEWS ANALYSIS

Tim Witcher

SEOUL—South Korea may not be able to force Japan to change its much-condemned history books but it is determined to exact revenge by shaming Japan on the international stage, analysts say.

Stung by its neighbor's refusal to alter books that critics say cover up the savage side of Japan's occupation of its Asian neighbors, the South Korean government on Thursday froze military exchanges and said there would be no more opening up to Japanese films and music.

These are largely symbolic gestures, according to diplomats. "Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is a nationalist who faces an upper-house election on July 29," said one Asian diplomat in Seoul. "He cannot afford to give in to demands from the Koreas and China."

So South Korea will instead seek to broadcast accusations that Japan is "distorting" its history at every international forum possible. The foreign ministry said it would start the campaign at a UN-organized world conference against racism to be held in South Africa from Aug. 31. It will also publicize the Japanese books at the UN General Assembly in New York in September, where Foreign Minister Han Seung-soo will be the assembly president, and at a UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization conference in October.

"And there will be other chances. The aim is to shame Japan for what they have done," a top foreign ministry official told AFP.

Japan and South Korea are to co-host next year's football World Cup finals. While Seoul said it would not affect the organization, Chung Mong-joon, chair of the South Korean organizing committee, said Friday the dispute would "inevitably undermine the image of the World Cup."

Even President Kim Dae-jung, who led attempts to get the two countries to bury decades of animosity since the end of Japan's 35-year occupation of Korea in 1945, has played a high profile role in the feud. Urging Japan to follow Germany's example in learning from its past, the Nobel Peace Prize winner said Thursday that South Korea has "support from international public opinion."

At home, authorities plan to change South Korean history books to emphasize the suffering of tens of thousands of "comfort women" forced into Imperial Army brothels, the gender equality ministry said. The Japanese books do not mention the women of whom there are now 140 elderly survivors.

Amid the burning of Japanese flags and effigies of the emperor, many people worry about the impact of the dispute on what is a strategic relationship in Asia. Kim Dalchoong, a professor of international relations at Yonsei University in Seoul, said: "I think it is distressing to see our bilateral relationship in this state. I was hoping that there would be some movement by Japan. But there has been nothing."

The professor warned that "the relationship will deteriorate. There are measures that can be taken. Many civic groups have been calling for a boycott of Japanese goods and the withdrawal of the ambassador. Any kind of economic sanction is bad. But recalling the ambassador would be too strong."

Kim stressed the two countries played key roles in maintaining Asian security, especially in handling North Korea. "We must isolate this dispute. It must not become mixed up with other bilateral problems."

But National Assembly member Park Sang-cheon predicted that Japan is unlikely to change its "deep-rooted" attitude. He said "bilateral relations between the two countries will not be easy until Japan corrects the distortions in its history textbook." *AFP*

Remembering Fr. Rudy Romano

THERE are only two things that can force a man to defy the most brutal of all tyrants and dismiss the threat of death as a flimsy possibility or as a much-awaited moment of personal epiphany. The first is the feeling of reckless heroism and the second is the sense of profound altruism and self-abnegation. The first refers to the youth-like desire to expand one's personal horizons at all cost and to enlist this feeling of invincibility in the service of a higher purpose and a far more noble goal. The second is the paragon of self-sacrifice that is so common among the Christian folk, giving a part of one's self to the indigent and the spiritually needy so that one may carry his or her cross and become whole.

Fr. Rudy Romano was a fusion of these two. A Redemptorist priest, he was the perfect follower of St. Alphonsus de Liguori, ministering to the destitute and most hapless of Christ's flock. But being a product of his times, Father Rudy was also one of the harshest critics of martial law and the conjugal dictatorship then residing in Malacañang.

It is perhaps this unsettling sight of a respected prelate in priestly soutane marching in anti-Marcos rallies that so infuriated the military and the powers-that-be. For on the afternoon of July 11, 1985, Father Rudy was abducted by members of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) in Labangon, Cebu, presumably to silence a man who has long acknowledged the nature of his calling by living and dying on behalf of God's brethren.

Abducted together with student activist Levi Ybañez, Father Rudy's disappearance and that of the other 1,716 similar cases documented since Marcos reflect our capacity for heroism and reminds of our callousness and our national affliction. While some light a candle so as not to curse in the dark, others seek refuge in the bleakness believing that they would either be blinded by the radiance or burned by the flickering flame.

Sixteen years have passed since then and neither his fate nor his whereabouts has been divulged by his abductors or by the authorities. It is truly ironic that a people that prides itself in being the sole Christian nation in this part of the world and other feats besides has allowed the disappearance of a priest along with other Filipino *desaparecidos*. Worse, this very same people have elected to the Senate a man who was allegedly involved in the abduction. Either the Filipino race is a people of hypocrites or a nation afflicted with amnesia.

In much the same way, the Good Book not only narrates how Christ asked his disciples to forgive seventy times seven times but He also speaks of the need for repentance for the sinner to be forgiven. Before there can be forgiveness, there must first be justice.

"He who would be a leader of his people," says Ninoy Aquino, "must learn to forgive them." That is easier said than done.—**MARY AILEEN BACALSO, secretary general, Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, 50K 8th Street, Kamias, Quezon City**

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Isn't tithing spiritual taxation?

MONEY indeed counts, even for the Church. The Catholic Church's latest pronouncement of "encouraging" tithing among the faithful proves this. Tithing, at the very least, is unfair and, at most, absurd in today's hard times. Though raised and educated in the Catholic faith, I share Eleonor Suson's dismay ("Skepticism on the Ikapu," PDI, 7/6/01) over profit-orientedness within a religious institution.

Tithing is tantamount to spiritual taxation! As far as I am concerned, the only organization which has the moral-legal right to tax its population, or a part of it, is the state. Taxation is, according to law, binding to all citizens. This is founded on the belief that taxes are necessary for governance, to enable the state to look after the social-moral upbringing of its people. As one thinker put it, "The state is a legal racketeering business."

On the other hand, the Catholic Church, as well as most religious groups, has no moral-ethical, even legal-judicial, underpinnings to tax its followers because it is founded on virtues such as charity and simplicity. Instead of asking money, the Church should focus on reaching out to the less-privileged Catholics. Generating funds for Church expenses should not be a problem. I am quite sure that there are a lot of generous Catholics out there who are willing to help the Church financially, even without tithing.

Religion is not a state run by a government of priests. Nor is it a business founded to amass profit. Faith should maintain its sacredness in the service of the Divine Being and the people. Faith should nourish the soul of its believers, not the pockets of its leaders.—**FRANCESCA LIMBO 45 Matimpiin St., Diliman, Quezon City**

Caution on GMOs

IN THE INTEREST of truth and fair play, allow us to refute the misleading claims and half-truths peddled by Dean Jorge Bocobo in his commentary about Greenpeace and our campaign against genetically modified organisms or GMOs. ("Greenpeace has a black eye," PDI, 6/18/01)

Greenpeace believes that all releases of genetically manipulated organisms pose unique and serious threats to the natural balance of ecosystems, biodiversity and therefore human and animal health. However, despite the absence of sound scientific risk-assessment procedures available to estimate the risk of a given transgenic organism, multinational corporations continue to push for their large-scale release into the environment and our food supply.

Bocobo claims that GMOs must be safe given their widespread use in other countries. This is a simplistic argument which ignores the reality that very few countries are into commercial production of GM crops and approximately 98 percent of the world production is found in only three countries: the United States, Argentina and Canada. In contrast, 38 or more countries in various continents of the world require regulation (from a ban on the planting and importation to labeling) because of their recognition of the potential risks to health and environment. Besides, the absence of evidence of its dangers does not mean GMOs are safe; it simply means no sufficient safety tests were done.

Genetic engineering is an inherently risky process. It is not a precise science as the proponents of GMOs would like us to believe. Even scientists do not know the long-term effects of releasing these unpredictable organisms into nature. That is why we are firm in our belief that the cumulative ecological impacts of the application of this technology in agriculture, the food and manufacturing industry, forestry, fisheries and other sectors dramatically outweigh any theoretically positive applications of GE promoted by the industry as well as their cabal of apologists, which include the likes of Bocobo.

Bocobo also wrote that Greenpeace "received a black eye from the recent resignation of Dr. Patrick Moore, a co-founder of Greenpeace." Although he did not clearly state the reason for Moore's resignation, his statements give the readers the impression that the position of Greenpeace on genetic engineering had something to do with it.

Whether or not the statement was meant to mislead, we don't know. We just want to set the record straight. Moore left the organization 17 years ago. Back then, genetic engineering was not yet an issue. The international genetic engineering campaign of Greenpeace started many years after he had left the organization.

Moore has been discredited by various environmental NGOs worldwide, including the WWF, Sierra Club, Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Forest Action Network, for his association with industry. After leaving Greenpeace, he went into salmon farming which eventually had to fold up due to financial problems. Shortly after that, he joined the British Columbia Forest Alliance, a group of loggers. Now, he travels around the world to speak on behalf of the biotech industry as well. He is notoriously known in the activist communities as a lapdog and apologist for these industries. He even had the temerity to present himself as a genetic engineering expert during the hearings on genetic engineering of the New Zealand Royal Commission when in fact he had not done any researches on the matter and had only papers to show. None of his papers were reviewed by his peers.

That doesn't fit into the image of a credible ecologist, does it? And what industry would not jump at the opportunity to use the name of green organizations to greenwash their environmentally destructive methods?

Bocobo should also identify the "responsible churchmen" he refers to in his commentary. The biotech industry uses the Vatican Pontifical Statement dated November 1999 to push its technology, saying that the Vatican accepts genetic engineering. Unfortunately, that statement has been superseded by a papal statement. Speaking before 50,000 farmers in Italy on Nov. 12, 2000, the Pope said that the use of "genetic modified organisms is contrary to God's will."

Jaime Cardinal Sin took a cautious approach in dealing with the technology and its products when he said in a pastoral letter dated May 8, 2001, "As long as foreseeable dangers are not fully identified, studied and avoided, safe alternative procedures should be used, or if none, testing and development of the technology should be delayed altogether."—**BEAU L. BACONGUIS, genetic engineering campaigner, Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Unit 326 Eagle Court Condominium, 26 Matalino St., Barangay Central, Diliman, Quezon City**

Incorrect data on sleep disorders

IS the Science/Health page of the INQUIRER intended to disseminate science/health information and education to the reading public or is it a subtle advertisement or "come-on" for some clinics or hospitals?

I am a regular reader and I sometimes read articles purporting to give science/health information but which are grossly misleading and can cause unnecessary anxiety to laymen, especially when incorrect statistics are cited.

An example is the article last July 7, titled "Clinical basis for spotting obstructive sleep disorders" by Tessa R. Salazar. In the first paragraph, the author alarmed everybody, without defining or describing sleep disorders, by writing that "the real culprit in more that 50 percent of sleep disorders is obstructive sleep apnea syndrome." This is very far from scientific truth. The rest of the article described briefly some symptoms but the greater part is what I consider a not so subtle "come-on" to their medical center.

Insomnia and obstructive sleep-disordered breathing are two conditions found more commonly in middle-aged and elderly adults, and only occasionally in children. Ten percent of adults are troubled by chronic insomnia, and only 2 to 4 percent of middle-aged adults have sleep apnea.

Here is an abbreviated International Classification of Sleep Disorders:

I. Dyssomnia divided into three categories:

A. Intrinsic sleep disorders of which there are 13 subtypes.

B. Extrinsic sleep disorders of which there are 14 categories.

C. Circadian sleep disorders of which there are seven categories, two of which are the jet lag syndrome and shift work sleep disorder.

II. Parasomnias (unusual behaviors in the middle of the night), such as sleep-talking, sleep walking, night terrors, nightmares, etc. These are common in children between 3 and 10 years old. There are four categories of parasomnias.

III. Medical/psychiatric sleep disorders, which has three categories: A. Associated with mental disorders; B. Associated with neurologic disorders; C. Associated with other medical disorders.—**GILBERTO L. GAMEZ, M.D., neurology and psychiatry, University of Santo Tomas, Manila**

DR. Mercy Antoinette Gappi, a sleep specialist, cited studies of psychiatric and neurologic specialists showing that more than 50 percent of sleep disorders is sleep disorder breathing or what is called obstructive sleep apnea syndrome. Dr. Robert W. Clark of the Columbus Community Health Regional Sleep Disorders Center in Ohio supported this claim when I interviewed him.—**TESSA R. SALAZAR**

School sports

THE PHYSICAL Education and School Sports Division of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports Region XI supports the stand of Aparicio H. Mequi who urged President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to veto the Oreta bill.

The Oreta bill, which seeks to transfer all sports competition-related functions, programs and activities of the DECS to the Philippine Sports Commission, is sound in theory but not in reality. Before the bill was filed in the Senate, Executive Order 81 which was signed by then President Joseph Estrada tried to achieve the same thing, but its purpose was defeated because the Palarong Pambansa and Batang Pinoy were still managed by school teachers and officials using school facilities with school children participating as athletes. They were conducted by the PSC only in name but its officials have admitted they could not have successfully held those sports competitions without the DECS.

So, why not keep those sports competition-related functions, programs and activities with the DECS?—**MELANIO C. CASTILLO, chief, PE and School Sports Division, DECS XI, Davao City**

Seoul mounts 'shame Japan' drive

SEOUL—South Korea may not be able to force Japan to change its much-condemned history books but it is determined to exact revenge by shaming Tokyo on the international stage, analysts say.

Stung by its neighbor's refusal to alter books that critics say cover up the savage side of Japan's occupation of its Asian neighbors, the South Korean government yesterday escalated pressure on Japan by canceling student and teacher exchanges scheduled for this year with its neighbor.

The Education Ministry also said it would distribute pamphlets to elementary, middle and high schools to teach students how Japanese textbooks allegedly justify Japan's invasion of Asian countries and whitewash its atrocities during World War II.

"We will heighten the people's understanding of history and reveal the distorted history in the Japanese textbooks, so that we can deal with the issue in a more fundamental manner," said Deputy Education Minister Choi Hee-sun.

On Thursday, Seoul froze military exchanges with Japan and said there would be no more opening up to Japanese films and music.

These are largely symbolic gestures, according to diplomats. "Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is a nationalist who faces an upper-house election on July 29," said one Asian diplomat in Seoul. "He cannot afford to give in to demands from the Koreas and China."

So South Korea will instead seek to broadcast accusations that Japan is "distorting" its history at every international forum possible.

The foreign ministry said it would start the campaign at a UN-organized world conference against racism to be held in South Africa from Aug. 31.

It will also publicize the Japanese books at the UN General Assembly in New York in September, where Foreign Minister Han Seung-soo will be the assembly president, and at a UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization conference in October.

"And there will be other chances, the aim is to shame Japan for what they have done," a top foreign ministry official said.

Japan and South Korea are to cohost next year's football World Cup finals. While Seoul said it would not affect the organization, Chung Mong-joon, chair of the South Korean organizing committee, yesterday said the dispute would damage the image of the event.

"We had hoped cohosting the World Cup would be a good opportunity to get closer but the textbook issue has undermined the opportunity to get closer," Chung said.

Even President Kim Dae-jung, who led attempts to get the two countries to bury decades of animosity since the end of Japan's 35-year occupation of Korea in 1945, has played a high profile role in the feud.

Urging Japan to follow Germany's example in learning from its past, the Nobel Peace Prize winner said Thursday that South Korea has "support from international public opinion." *AFP and AP*

Powell, Tanaka set talks on Okinawa row

TOKYO—The US secretary of state and Japan's foreign minister will likely meet next week to discuss improvements to a bilateral agreement governing US troops in Japan after an American airman allegedly raped a Japanese woman, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Colin Powell and Makiko Tanaka are tentatively scheduled to meet next Wednesday in Rome at a gathering of Group of Eight foreign ministers to be held ahead of a summit of G-8 leaders in Genoa, the nationally circulated Asahi newspaper said Friday. The daily did not cite its sources.

Tsutomu Himeno, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, said that while Tanaka and Powell were likely to meet, it was too early to say whether they would have the time to discuss the issue in depth.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no agenda for talks had been set. A US State Department spokesperson refused to confirm or deny the report.

US Air Force Staff Sgt. Timothy Woodland was arrested last Friday on suspicion of raping a 20-year-old woman on June 29 outside a bar on Okinawa, a small island on Japan's southern fringe that hosts just over half of the 47,000 US troops stationed in Japan.

Japanese reacted angrily after the United States waited four days to give Okinawa police custody of Woodland because of concerns about his legal defense under Japan's criminal justice system. In Japan, more than 95 percent of suspects whose cases go to trial are convicted.

Many Japanese took the delay as an insult to the nation's justice system, compounding anger over a series of crimes committed by US military personnel on the island, located 1,600 km southwest of Tokyo.

Powell is also scheduled to visit Japan after the Rome meeting as part of a tour of Asian capitals. *AP*

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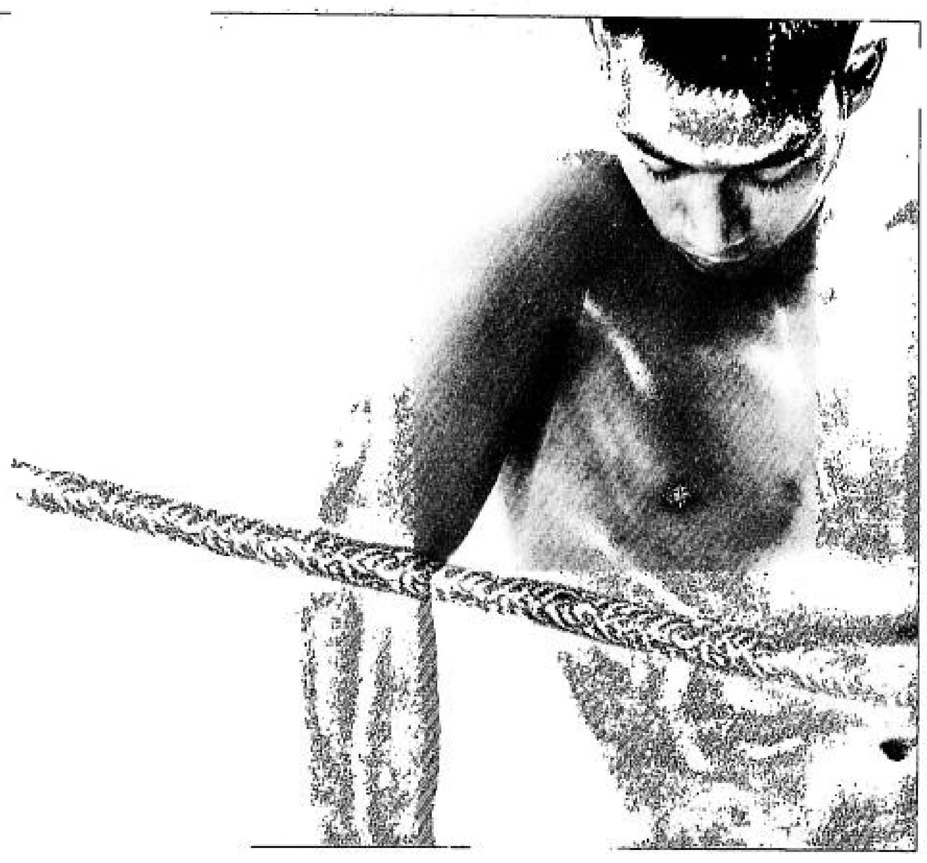

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India says summit must go beyond Kashmir

NEW DELHI—While Pakistan's leader is determined to make Kashmir the key element of his talks with his Indian counterpart this weekend, New Delhi will attempt to move the talks beyond the disputed Himalayan province.

"India has never been thought shy of discussing Jammu-Kashmir," foreign minister Jaswant Singh told a news conference Thursday, two days before the summit begins.

But Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will push President Gen. Pervez Musharraf to also resume the "composite dialogue" that began between the two South Asian neighbors two years go.

That dialogue fell apart when Pakistan launched an attack on Indian-held Kashmir. The discussions had included trade and commerce, measures to prevent a nuclear accident, a joint effort to curb drug trafficking and a resolution to settle the disputed Siachen Glacier.

"I'm astonished now that there should be a suggestion that those be abandoned," said Singh, also India's defense minister.

The other issues likely to be discussed could include an Iran-India natural gas pipeline that must pass through Pakistan, Afghanistan and terrorism in the region, and the resumption of cricket matches between the two countries.

Singh, however, declined to reveal any formal summit agenda, save to say that the disputed Kashmir province will not be the only focus of the talks.

The three-day summit that opens with Musharraf's arrival in New Delhi on Saturday will be the first talks between the nuclear rivals since 1999.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over the Kashmir region since independence from Britain in 1947.

A ceasefire line drawn up after the last war between the two countries in 1971 now splits the Kashmir province: two-thirds rests with India, the remainder with Pakistan.

Since 1989, Islamic militants in Kashmir have fought for a merger with Pakistan or independence, leaving 30,000 to 60,000 people dead.

While Musharraf has said that he intends to resolve the Kashmir conflict, both countries claim all of Kashmir in its entirety and it's unlikely that either side will budge.

Musharraf on Wednesday said no improvements could be made between the rival nations until they resolved Kashmir.

"Kashmir is the core issue," Musharraf said. "India has been endeavoring to sideline the issue, but I (would) like to promote the centrality and importance of the issue."

Countered Singh: "Kashmir is not the core issue. Kashmir is at the core of Indian nationhood."

Singh was asked how India could agree to meet with the man who instigated the 11-week cross-border shelling of India in 1999 and then claimed power in a bloodless coup only months later. Musharraf also recently named himself president and will be given full honors as the head of state during his visit. *AP*

Sharon: Israel will retaliate from now on

ROME—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has announced here that Israel will retaliate "on the ground" from now on to armed Palestinian attacks, after violence flared up again in the West Bank.

"The government's policy from now on is to respond on the ground to Palestinian attacks," Sharon said in a press conference late Thursday following meetings with Italian leaders.

The Palestinians must understand that they will "pay the price for their attacks," Sharon said, adding the decision had been made at an Israeli security cabinet meeting and subsequently at government level over the past ten days.

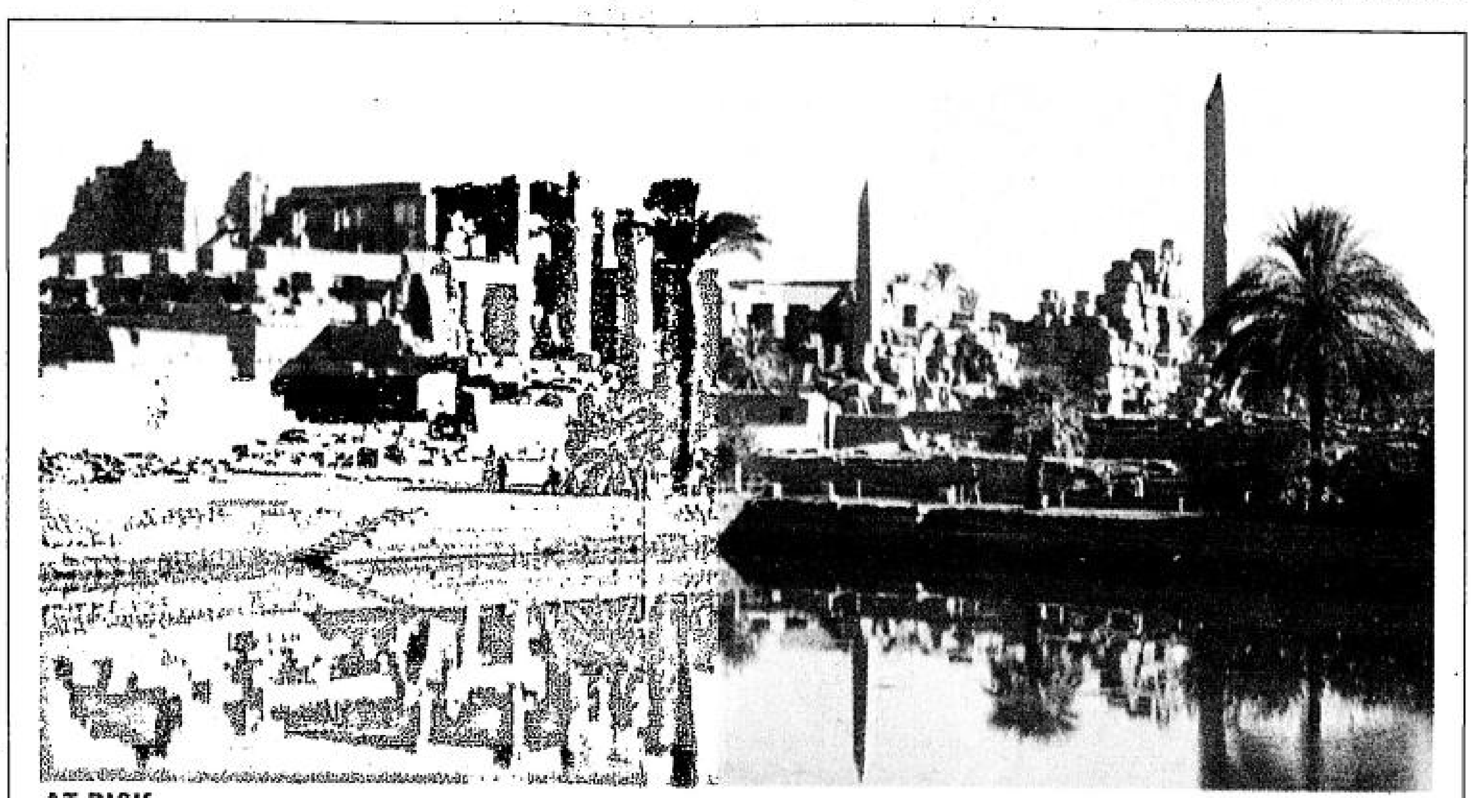
"The reply would be immediate and precise," Sharon said during a 24-hour visit here, adding it would not be an automatic response.

Sharon ruled out, at least at this stage, launching any large-scale attack against the Palestinian autonomous territories.

However his comments were another apparent nail in the coffin of the US-sponsored ceasefire which came into effect on June 13.

Since then a total of 31 people have died—two-thirds of them Palestinians.

In the latest violence, a Palestinian policeman was killed Thursday when Israel pounded the West Bank town of Nablus in retaliation for roadside ambushes that wounded four Jewish settlers in some of the worst violence to shake a month-old ceasefire. *AFP*



AT RISK

AP

A general view of Karnak, a 4,000-year-old complex of temples standing on the east bank of the river Nile on the northern edge of the ancient city of Luxor, in this November 2000 file photo. Experts say ground water has risen alarmingly close to the foundations of Karnak. It could eventually result in the crumbling or sinking of the temple complex built and added to over 2,500 years ending around the start of Roman rule in Egypt in 30 BC.

Levy probe expanded

WASHINGTON—Federal officials have expanded their investigation into Chandra Levy's disappearance to determine whether Rep. Gary Condit obstructed justice.

The search for the 24-year-old former federal intern, who disappeared 11 weeks ago, was moving forward on several fronts.

Police were re-interviewing people at Levy's apartment building and continued a search of abandoned buildings in Washington. Police also were awaiting FBI laboratory tests to see if items removed from Condit's apartment contained blood.

Items sent to the lab after a light and chemical test used to detect possible blood included a portion of a miniblind and swabs of residue taken from spots on the floor and wall of the California Democrat's residence, law enforcement officials said.

They cautioned that the light test can react to various organic materials, and only lab tests can confirm whether the suspect material constituted blood or another substance.

Terrance Gainer, Washington's No. 2 police official, said Thursday that authorities were expecting no major advances in their investigation as a result of the almost four-hour search Wednesday morning that was done with Condit's consent and in his presence.

Police have said repeatedly they do not consider Condit a suspect in Levy's disappearance. A police source has said the congressman acknowledged a romantic relationship with the former Bureau of Prisons intern.

Federal prosecutors and the FBI were looking at a flight attendant's allegation that Condit urged her to sign a statement denying a 10-month affair she says they had. Anne Marie Smith also said Condit told her she did not have to cooperate with FBI agents who questioned her. *AP*

Wahid threatens anew to impose emergency rule

JAKARTA—Indonesia's embattled President Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday issued a fresh threat to declare an emergency if parliament goes ahead with a planned impeachment debate after MPs were told the critical session could be brought forward.

The call for the national assembly (MPR)'s 700 members to be ready to meet in Jakarta before Aug. 1 was made by its chair Amien Rais late Thursday night after a hastily-called leadership session in reaction to Wahid's moves against national police chief Gen. Suroyo Bimantoro.

"The convening of the special session is only hours, not days away," the Jakarta Post quoted Rais as saying.

He said MPR members already in Jakarta should stay put, and those in the provinces be ready to travel to the capital.

But the assembly chair gave no likely date for a speeded-up session in his call, which came as the brinkmanship between the president and the house escalated ahead of a July 20 deadline set by Wahid for the house to call off the session or face the imposition of a civil emergency.

Wahid, speaking in West Java yesterday, fine-tuned his emergency threat, saying he would declare it at 6 p.m. next Friday, unless a compromise was reached.

A compromise, he said, could involve his agreeing to deliver a speech, but not an accountability speech.

But Rais, a bitter foe of Wahid's, who has lashed out at party leaders still talking with Wahid, indicated he was in no mood to compromise.

"Assembly leaders have concluded that Gus Dur's (Wahid's nickname) maneuvers are a threat to the safety of this country and is driving it to disintegration," Rais said.

"So I warn assembly members to be on the alert during the coming days . . . don't fall asleep." *AFP*

Russia OKs anti-money laundering measure

MOSCOW—Russia's lower house of parliament gave swift final approval Friday to an anti-money-laundering bill that would require banks to report big transactions by their clients and identify people wishing to buy stock or foreign currency for cash.

The State Duma voted 244-107 with one abstention to approve the bill in the last of three required readings. It needs to be approved by the upper house, and be signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law.

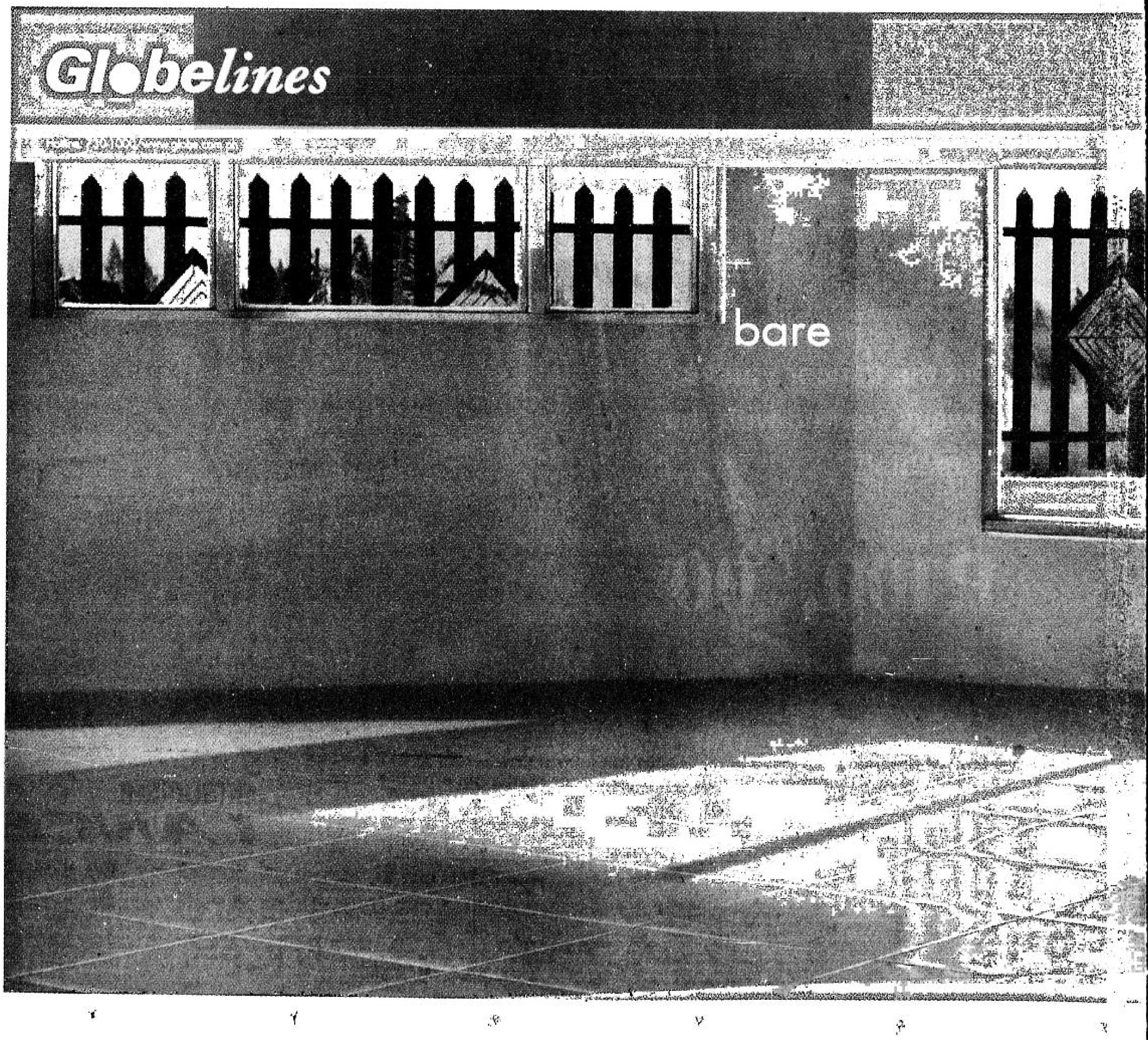
The United States and other Western nations have long pushed Russia to introduce legislation to combat money laundering. The issue came into the spotlight in 1999, when US authorities said some $7 billion of Russian money had been laundered through the Bank of New York.

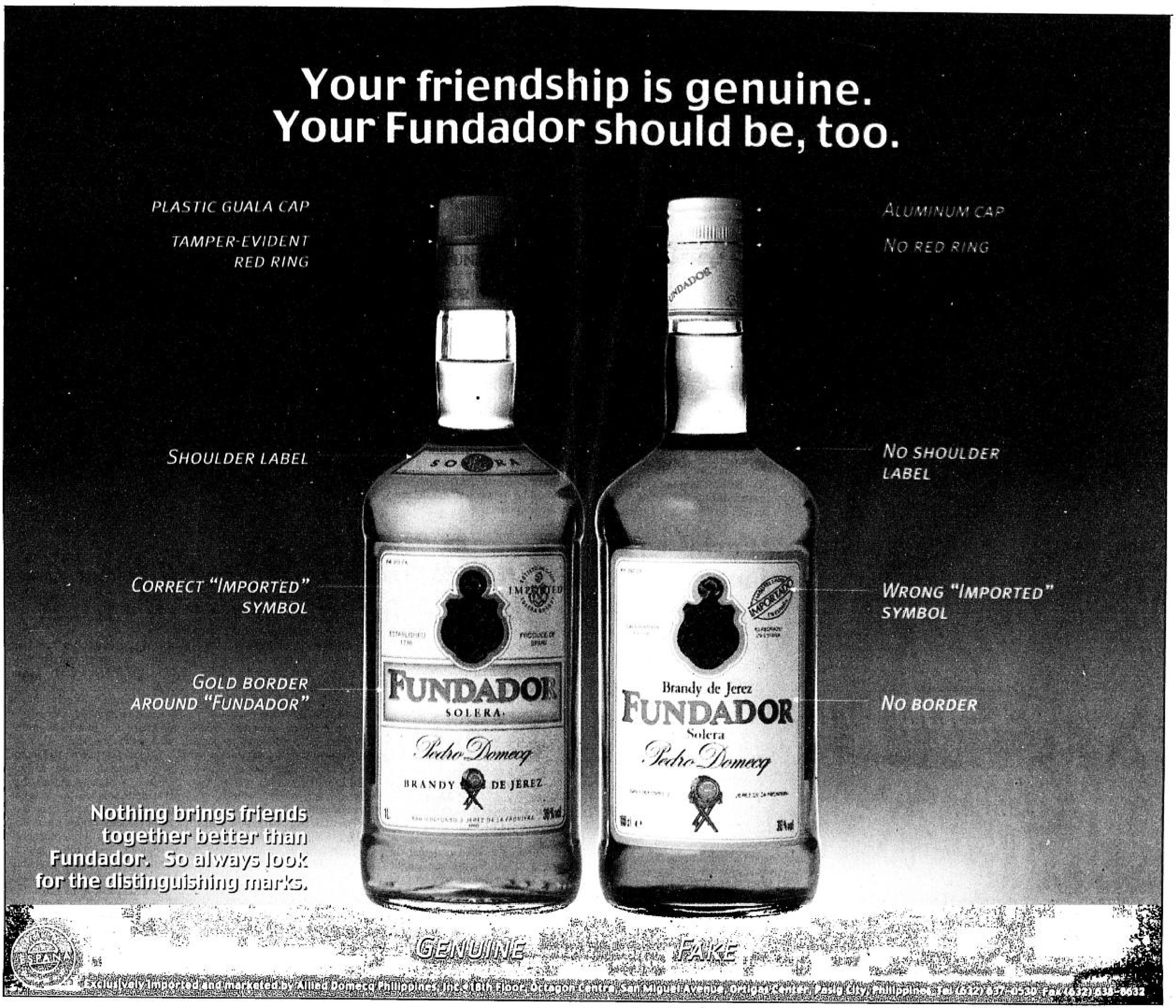
Under the new bill, Russian banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions would be required to inform authorities about most operations exceeding about $20,500.

These deals would include withdrawals from and deposits into private accounts, buying or selling foreign currency, paying cash to buy stock, exchanging bills for different denomination notes, and using cash as starting capital for a new company.

Banks would also have to report transactions involving numbered accounts, and would be required to demand identification from anyone wishing to open a numbered account or set up an account in the name of another person.

Movement of funds in accounts held by companies that had existed for less than three months would also have to be reported—an apparent attempt to block the creation of front companies for the laundering of criminal proceeds. *AP*





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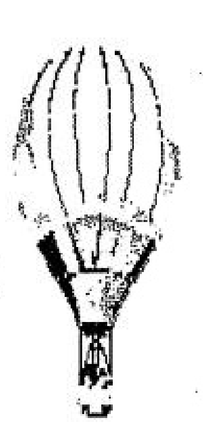

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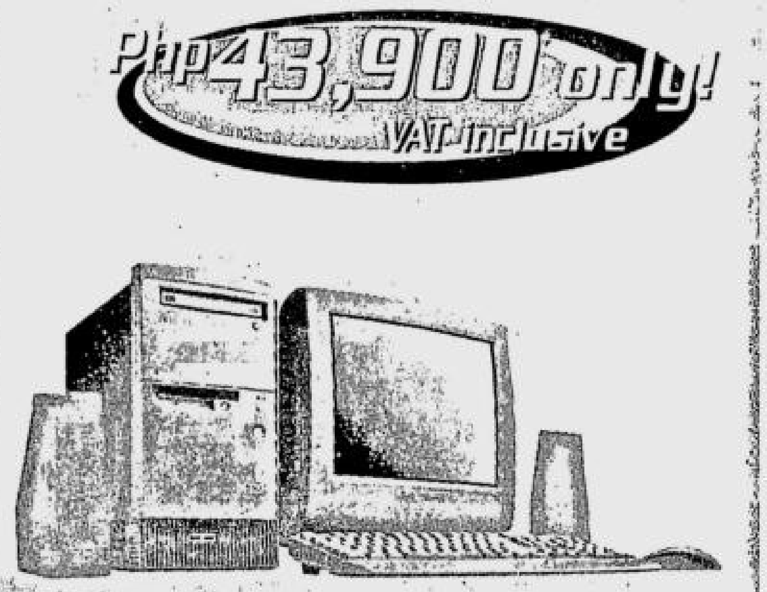

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Gloria urged to scrap power bill surcharge

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The provincial board is urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to either scrap or reduce the controversial Power Purchase Adjustment (PPA), an additional charge being passed on by electricity firms to their consumers.

The appeal was contained in a resolution, authored by board member Arturo Umbac, which was passed during the board's regular session on Thursday. Umbac is the former general manager of the Negros Oriental II Electric Cooperative.

The board said in the resolution that the PPA has exceeded more than half of consumers' regular electric bills, causing "much anxiety and apprehension (among) our people and affecting the already dwindling family budget."

The argument that the PPA is "due to fuel fluctuations" is irrelevant in Negros Oriental because the province is the chief source of geothermal power on the island, the board pointed out.

The Philippine National Oil Corp. is operating geothermal power plants in Valencia town, which generates at least 112 megawatts of electricity daily.

The power generated in Valencia is being distributed by the National Power Corporation to Cebu, Negros Occidental and Panay Islands.

The PPA is an additional charge passed on by power distributors to their consumers to pay for systems losses, increases in fuel rates, foreign exchange fluctuations and other losses.

Several consumer groups have been calling for the PPA's abolition because it increases the power rates of consumers by as much as 70 percent.

Instead of scrapping the PPA, the Napocor instead reduced the Fuel and Purchase Power Cost Adjustment (FPPCA) by 20-centavo per-kilowatt-hour.

The FPPCA is collected from the power distributors by Napocor to cover any movement in fuel prices and in the cost of power bought from independent power producers.

'Feria' wrath jacks up cost of goods

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—After a struggle on the road, comes another typhoon "Feria" aftermath.

Consumers, too, are feeling the pinch of the long road to Northern Luzon provinces as retailers have started adjusting prices of prime commodities.

The long haul to this city has forced traders to increase their prices to cover costs of additional fuel that delivery trucks consume in transporting supplies.

Cargo trucks coming from Metro Manila and nearby provinces of Bulacan and La Union detour to the Cagayan Valley road as only light vehicles could pass through temporary road connections set up in place of the eroded Quirino and Badoc Bridges in Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte, respectively.

A week after the typhoon, residents here are slowly getting back on their feet. But victims who suffered severely from Feria's onslaught continue to heap on the phenomenal strength of the typhoon which, old folks say, "is the second most incredible typhoon in three decades."

Residents say Feria parallels the great typhoon that hit Ilocos Norte in the late 1960s when floodwaters reached the second level of a two-story building.

At one point, a sickly mother drowned inside her house when rampaging waters rose instantly.

Feria left 19,633 families or 82,970 people either homeless or displaced after their houses were buried under thick mud.

It also destroyed P174-million worth of livestock, crops, fisheries and infrastructure projects, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council reported on Wednesday.

Operations here are just beginning to normalize, but the road conditions have resulted in limited supplies reaching establishments here, from grocery items to construction materials, because daily deliveries have been cut to at least twice weekly.

Based on the Department of Trade and Industry's monitoring of price and supply situation, cement and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices soared considerably while most grocery owners reported a dwindling stockpile of grocery items.

The LPG, a household necessity, now sells at P197 per cylinder or P20 up from its regular price of P177 per cylinder before the typhoon struck.

Consumers are not complaining yet because as they say, "anything displayed on the shelf is better than nothing during a calamity situation."

"We understand the plight of consumers. But we need to pass on a minimal amount to defray additional expenses we incur from bringing our supply to the city," said Walter Aquino, a cashier at the North Star Marketing, an LPG distributor.

Aquino said cargo trucks go around road diversions in at least four provinces starting from Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Isabela and up to Cagayan before reaching Ilocos Norte. ***With a report from Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Undressing of 13-yr-old for P82 debt highlights abuse of maids

TABACO CITY—For an P82 debt from her employer, a 13-year-old housemaid of a Filipino-Chinese businessman here was allowed to go home only after being made to undress in the presence of eight fellow house helpers, including males.

Accompanied by her mother and a friend, Evaness Binio (not her real name) sought the help of the women and children's desk of this city's police to file a complaint against Noel Que, a bazaar owner.

Binio's mother said that on June 29, she fetched her daughter at the residence of Que to bring her home.

Binio said Que allowed her but told them she could not bring her clothes until they have settled Binio's P82 debt.

The victim's father accompanied her the other day to get her clothes.

It was while the father was waiting outside when the debasing incident happened.

In her sworn statement, Binio said Que tried to pull down her pants but she held it tight and resisted.

Que then ordered her co-housemaid to pull down her pants allegedly to check whether Binio's underwear really belonged to her.

The victim said she almost fainted and felt so humiliated when she heard Que saying in the dialect "Look at Evaness, she looks like Ara Mina."

The victim said her boss and her male co-workers laughed as she was told to turn around in a two-piece suit.

Chief Insp. Nilo Berdin, city chief of police, said they are now preparing a case for violation of R.A. 7610 (Child Abuse Law) against Que.

The victim was receiving a monthly salary of P1,000 and had worked for two months as housemaid of the Que family.

Que said he had no bad intentions against his maid, adding he only wanted to ensure that what Binio was wearing was her own clothes before letting her go.

Carmencita Dellova, city social welfare and development officer, said the victim's parents should also be held responsible for violating the child labor law.

She said that at that age, the victim should still be in the care of her parents. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

COPS AND PIRATES

Talks used as shield in crimes

MATI, Davao Oriental—The ongoing peace talks between the government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front is preventing the police from pursuing sea pirates suspected to be members of the rebel group or so police say.

Supt. Melohasideck Bargio, provincial police chief, said because of the ongoing peace negotiations, the police are "somewhat hesitant to conduct an offensive against the MILF rebels here who are doing piracy in the high seas of Mati."

Bargio said he was against the idea of barging into the Moro rebels' camp in nearby Tarragona town "because we might be charged of provoking another war."

He said if they were to launch an offensive against the "MILF pirates," it would not be on the guerrilla camp in Tarragona town, "it should be in the high seas of Mati where the actual piracy is."

But he said they could hardly succeed in arresting the pirates because "we don't have a speedboat to at least chase the suspects."

"Our Coast Guard has a speed boat but (it) is no longer functioning," he said.

He said the problem was compounded by the non-cooperation of fishing operators here in police efforts to stop rampant piracy in the seas of Mati.

But Maj. Alexis Gopico, chief of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, said the police should pursue these pirates even with the ongoing peace negotiations.

Gopico said piracy is a police matter.

Fish operators here said at least half of their catch are being taken by the sea pirates whom they suspected to be MILF rebels operating in nearby Tarragona town. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

2 Balweg slaying suspects arrested

BAGUIO CITY—Two non-government organization workers who were included in the list of the accused in the 1999 New Year's eve murder of former rebel priest Conrado Balweg were arrested by the police in La Union last week.

Reports reaching Dinteg, an alternative law center here, identified those arrested as Eduardo Cacayuran and Avelino Dacanay, both community organizers working for a farmers' group in La Union.

Cacayuran was reportedly arrested in his house in Aringay, La Union, on July 8 while Dacanay was arrested on July 11.

Details of the arrests remained sketchy at press time, according to Dinteg officials.

Cacayuran and Dacanay are among the so-called Abra 13, a group of 13 NGO and Church workers who were tagged in the murder of Balweg in Malibcong, Abra, on Dec. 31, 1999.

The group and Aglipayan Church worker Lorna Rivera-Baba, said to be the mastermind of the Balweg slaying, denied involvement in the murder.

The New People's Army's Agustin Begnalen Command operating in Abra had owned up to the slaying.

Lawyer Jose Molintas, lead counsel for members of the Abra 13, said they have filed a motion with the Abra prosecutor to investigate the arrest of Dacanay and Cacayuran.

Earlier, Abra 13 members Nomer Kuan, Romeo Sanchez, couple Emelyn and Noel Dacuycuy and Edson Halabaso were arrested by Army soldiers and policemen but were later released for lack of evidence linking them to Balweg's slaying.

Baba, who was arrested by agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in March 2000, was allowed to post bail in May after more than a year of detention in the Abra provincial jail.

Baba told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview that the arrest of Cacayuran and Dacanay was meant to harass community workers and organizers.

"This case has caused too much inconvenience to workers like us who are dedicated to community service. We just hope that the court will work fast to clear Cacayuran and Dacanay so they could continue with their community work," Baba said. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Web info surprises top architecture examinee

By Marvi A. Gil
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—All the way from Las Vegas in the United States, 22 year-old John Edward Chua Gobok's voice shook with ill-concealed emotion as he listened to his parents excitedly tell him that he topped the architecture licensure exams.

His parents immediately called him up after they had confirmed through the Inq7 website that their son got 86.3 percent in the architecture licensure examinations.

Elizabeth and her husband, Johnny, were informed of the good news at 1 a.m. on Wednesday by their friends in Manila.

John was also elated when he learned that his two friends were also in the top 10.

Cindy Tan Uy was third place and Ryan Denver Chan Rasines placed fourth. The two were John's classmates at the University of San Carlos, College of Architecture and Fine Arts (Cafa) where John graduated cum laude.

Some 1,085 examinees took the architecture licensure exams from June 21 to 24 in Manila but only 400, or 36 percent, made it.

The last time that a Cebuano topped the architecture board exam was in 1986. The topnotcher, Andrew Ong, now heads the Penshoppe's Madera Foundation.

A consistent honor student, Edward finished high school at the Sacred Heart School Society of Jesus, a Jesuit-run institution.

In college, he was a familiar face in architecture awards ceremonies, often copping one of the three top spots in student competitions.

Edward was also involved in extracurricular activities, participating actively in student council events as the Cafa council representative.

A quiet, introspective young man, he chooses to spend his free time in front of the computer or play an occasional game of basketball with close friends.

After he graduated from college, John has been helping in the family's export business. The Gobok family is exporting fishing equipment.

On the day that the results of the exam came out, John was on his way to tend to a booth, which his family's company had set up at a fishing equipment trade show.

In fact, John initially thought that the call on his mobile phone was another one of those little irritants where he would receive last minute instructions from his parents in Cebu.

Instead, it was the phone call that changed his life.

ROUNDUP

Dengue alert up

BAGUIO CITY—Health officials warned of a possible outbreak of dengue in the Cordillera during the rainy season. Dr. Myrna Cabotaje, assistant health regional director, said 135 dengue cases were reported in seven hospitals in Baguio and Benguet. These represented a 73-percent rise from June last year. She said there is a dengue outbreak in Bokod and Mankayan towns in Benguet after 239 cases were recorded there. Engineer Sonronio Repolve, chief sanitation officer here, said at least 40 villages here have been fumigated.

Lief Volt Pormento, Northern Luzon Bureau

Soldier admits slay

SAN ISIDRO, Isabela—An Army corporal admitted killing his wife and son in Barangay Ramos East here on July 6 after she nagged him over his extra-marital affairs. Senior Insp. Teofilo Tamolang, police chief here, said Cpl. Rey Bruno said in an affidavit that he was drunk when he stabbed and killed his wife Alicia Nazareno-Bruno, 33, and Julius Ceasar, 5. Bruno, who is assigned to the 502nd Infantry Brigade headquarters in Echague town, was charged with double parricide. He is now under the custody of the Army's provost marshal.

Melvin Gascon and Villamor Visaya Jr.,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Killer diseases in Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A five-year study of the Center for Health Development in Cagayan Valley showed that among the top killer diseases in the region were heart trouble, pneumonia and cancer. The report said 2,053 people died of pneumonia while 959 died of cancer. Other killer diseases included tuberculosis, pulmonary diseases, gastric and peptic ulcer, urinary diseases and diarrhea.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI
Northern Luzon Bureau

2 charged with murder

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Two men suspected of killing a businessman and two of his friends in Barangay General Balao, Solana town were charged with multiple murder. Edmund Madrid and Boyet Lorenzo are now detained at the Cagayan provincial jail. Police said businessman Ramon de Asis and his friends Edgar Dispante and Cristopher Buncad were found dead with bullet wounds at the De Asis rest house in Solona town.

Villamor Visaya, PDI
Northern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rianshowers and thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 31° Lo 24°	**Baguio** Hi 21° Lo 16°	**Tuguegarao** Hi 32° Lo 22°	**Laoag** Hi 32° Lo 25°
Clark Zone Hi 31° Lo 23°	**Tagaytay** Hi 28° Lo 22°	**Legazpi** Hi 30° Lo 25°	**Calapan** Hi 31° Lo 24°
Bacolod Hi 30° Lo 25°	**Roxas** Hi 30° Lo 25°	**Cebu** Hi 31° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** Hi 29° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 31° Lo 24°	**Zamboanga** Hi 32° Lo 24°	**Cagayan de Oro** Hi 32° Lo 24°	**Davao** Hi 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/14/01

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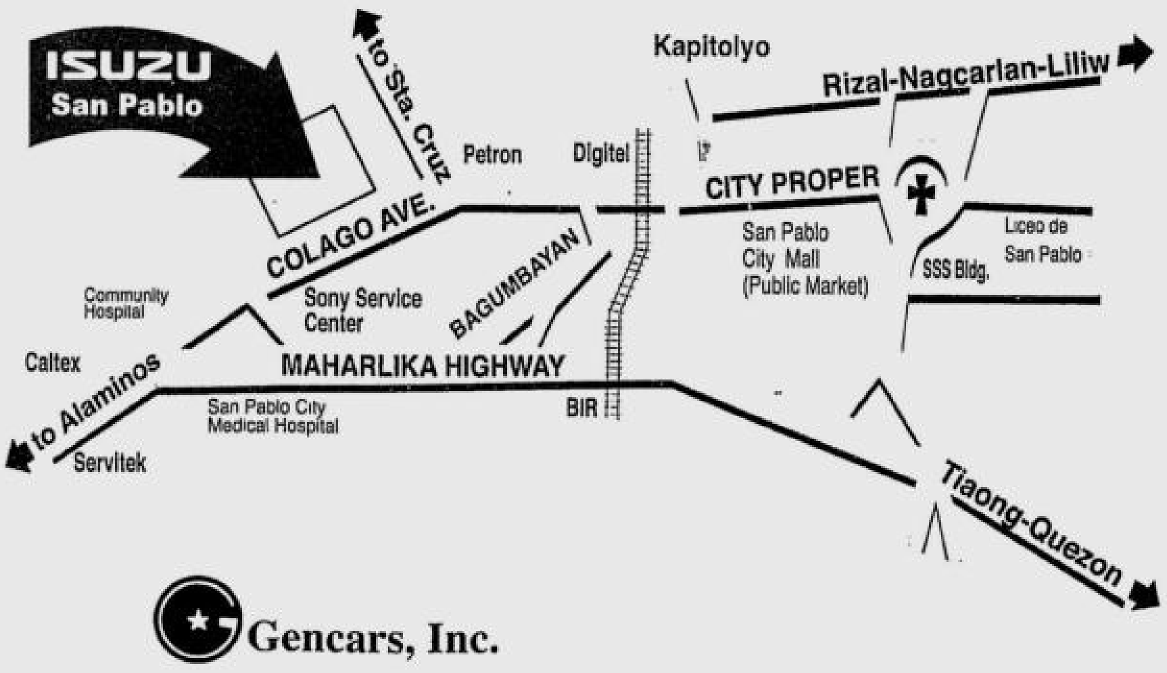
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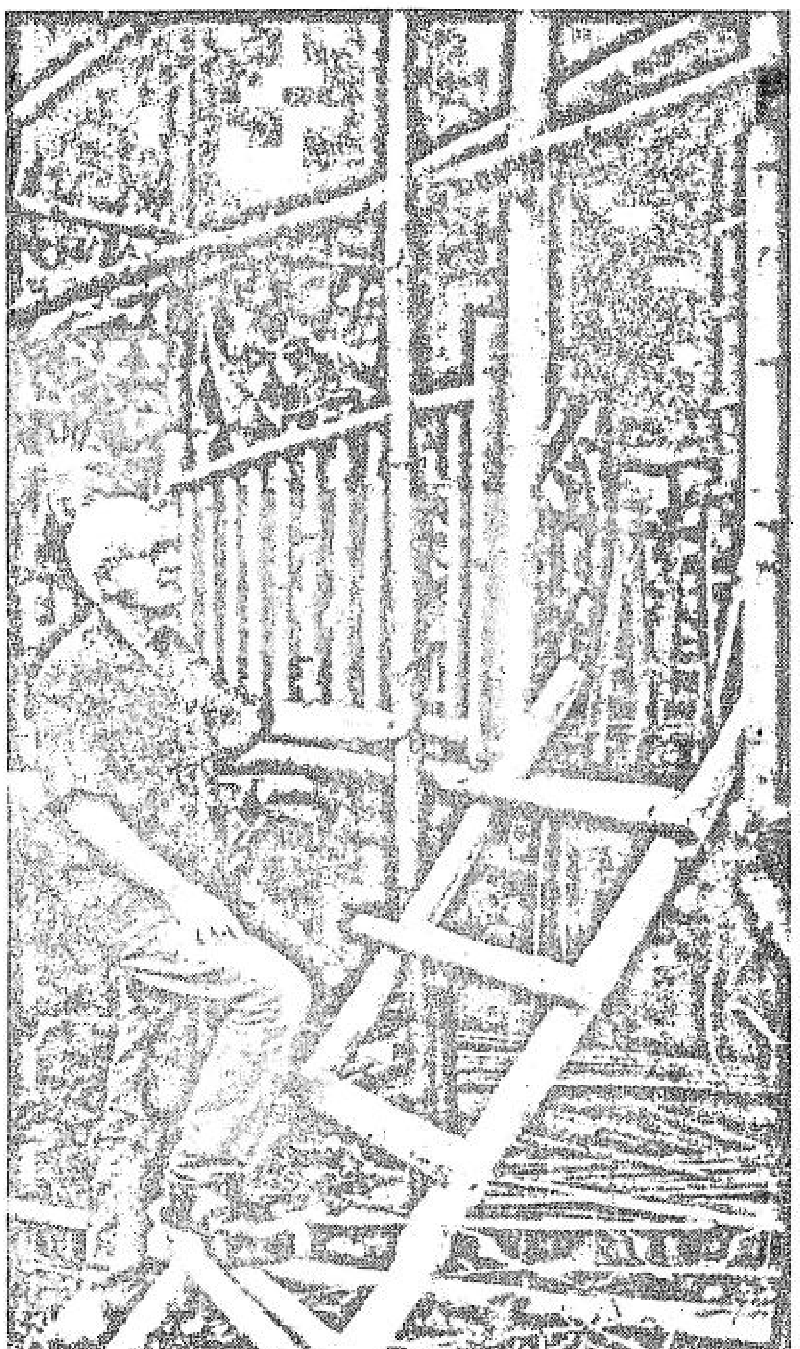
The Philippine bamboo goes places



FRANS Kleine Koerkamp, a Dutch who fell in love with the Philippine bamboo, checks a bamboo house under construction in Dumaguete City.
ALEX PAL

A Dutch breathes new life to an ignored resource

BY ALEX PAL
Dumaguete City

IN A SMALL bamboo factory nestled under coconut trees in Barangay Camanjac, Dumaguete City, Rufo Terio balances himself delicately on a horizontal bamboo pole as he builds a bamboo house.

From a distance, this looks like one of the many houses Terio had built back in his town of Siaton, Negros Oriental, during the last 10 years.

But this is no ordinary house. Terio and the rest of the carpenters know that this special house will become a showcase for the Philippine bamboo in some far-off place.

"This house looks neater because we don't anymore insert the walls on the bamboo posts," he says, describing a new technique introduced by the house's designer.

There are also no metal nails but all pieces are joined together by rattan or by bamboo nails.

"It's just as strong," he says as he puts his weight on a pole that will soon hold the *amakan* (woven bamboo strips) wall.

In two weeks, the two-bedroom hut, with a roof made out of *sac-sac (dried palm leaves)*, will be ready for occupancy. Then it will be dismantled, to rise again in April 2002 amongst the windmills of Holland.

This is one of two huts sold by the Dumaguete-based Buglas Bamboo Institute (BBI) to a bamboo garden owner in Holland, where it will become the main attraction.

"If it goes well, we will be sending 30 more (bamboo houses to Holland)," says Frans Kleine Koerkamp, BBI director and founder.

Frans, a Dutch who has been in the Philippines since 1963, first worked as a Carmelite missionary. He then became more involved with nongovernment organizations, development organizations and human rights groups. His exposure to farmers and the urban poor also gave him a first-hand glimpse of the importance and uses of bamboo in the Philippines.

Intertwined

"The Filipino people and the bamboo are intertwined. Bamboos are used in many areas to cut the umbilical cord of newborns. Even in death, bamboos are used to carry the body to the lowland," he says.

> "The Filipino people and the bamboo are intertwined. Bamboos are used in many areas to cut the umbilical cord of newborns. Even in death, bamboos are used to carry the body to the lowland"

Frans started the groundwork for the BBI in 1995 after noting the various potentials of bamboo, which is often taken for granted in the Philippines. "We (were) looking at the possibilities of bamboo as construction materials, as components for the export-oriented furniture industry in Cebu and as home decorations," he says.

He decided to use the name "buglas" when he formed the institute, after the wild grass that covered Negros Island. Buglas was also the name for the island before the arrival of the Spaniards.

"We couldn't call ourselves the Negros Bamboo Institute or we'd be the NBI," he says in jest.

Frans and his partners spent the first four years surveying and organizing the farmers. In June 1999, the institute started producing bamboo products to be sold to the public.

Apart from the BBI, there are two university-based institutions that devote themselves to the study of bamboo in the Philippines—at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños and the Don Mariano Marcos State University in Laoag.

The Buglas Bamboo Institute teaches farmers to produce better bamboo—from planting and managing the clamp until it is ready for harvest. The farmers are then taught the proper way of cutting, treating, drying and storing the bamboo poles.

Researches are also being done to counter the degenerative effect of the *bokbok*, an organism that slowly devours the bamboo by eating its insides.

Unlike some NGOs which give farmers direct financial assistance, the BBI sees itself as a creator of markets for bamboo products so that farmers will have markets to sell their bamboo.

"I made a study in 1993 which said that up to 95 percent of the money that comes in for development aid goes to waste. So I told myself, we have to do it correctly, this time," Frans says.

To date, the BBI has bought bamboo from farmers in Barangay Se-it in Siaton town and Barangay Casile in Dauin town. They are also transferring their factory to Barangay Maayong Tubig, also in Dauin, when their machines arrive. There, they can also have a bamboo park to showcase several varieties of bamboos.

The BBI office on the second floor of the Rural Bank of Subangdaku Building along San Jose Street in Dumaguete City has also become their showcase of products—from floor tiles, furniture and other ornamental products. You can also find samples of their products in their website at www.cvpc.edu.ph/bbi.

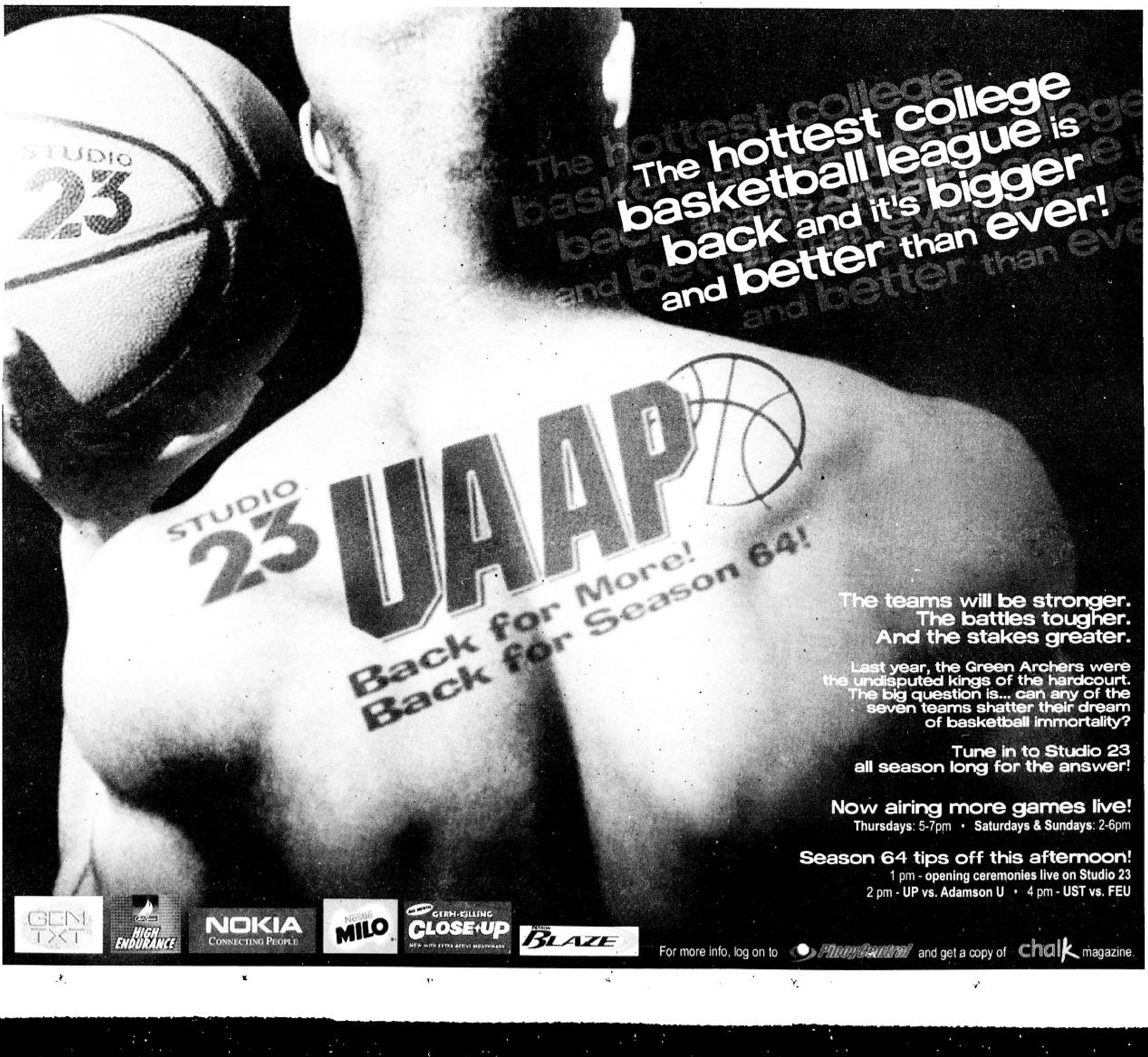
Much better

Frans says even Chinese experts regard the Philippine bamboo as much better than Chinese bamboo. "Knowing the very good quality of bamboo they grow in China, that comment means something," Frans adds. .

Bamboo is classified as grass but it is also the fastest-growing plant on earth. It is also said to have better environment-friendly capabilities than trees.

With the Philippine bamboo now going places, Frans hopes the public would find more uses for the bamboo and replace materials that come from the country's depleted resources.

"My dream is for the bamboo to have found the technology to replace wood so that we can stop cutting trees altogether," says Frans.



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Marking time

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia

IT'S been almost two months now since the elections but two towns in Negros Occidental have not yet resolved the problem of whom among their mayoral candidates will be proclaimed winner.

In San Enrique town, challenger Jilson Tubillara is supposed to have received more votes than Mayor Julius Lanzar but Lanzar questioned the results and the local Commission on Elections, tied up with questions raised against the process, has not yet proclaimed a winner.

Supporters of both sides are getting heated up, to the point that the town hall is being picketed and residents hesitate to go there, fearing that violence may explode anytime. So far, the police have arrested two supporters of Tubillara.

The same situation exists in EB Magalona town where Mayor Alfonso Gamboa got more votes than Rex Depasucat, whose supporters also claim is the winner. Protests and petitions have been raised and no proclamation has been made yet.

It was different in Bacolod City where protests and petitions were filed during the canvassing of election returns. Comelec Registrar Norberto Plagata simply refused to entertain any question, did not even glance at some of the petitions and proceeded to proclaim his winner over protests from candidates and their supporters and despite the beatings that local media, especially radio, gave him.

Despite the haste to proclaim, petitions against the act are still pending at the Comelec. So far, however, no candidate has sought a recount, knowing how inutile that could be.

In the meantime, San Enrique, EB Magalona and even Bacolod are still marking time.

* * *

In Bacolod City, the big news in the last two weeks was about the thousands of sacks of rice that landed on the Bredco port which customs and police officials held temporarily on suspicion that they were smuggled.

Days passed but no consignee showed up to claim the cargo that came in three ships. Last week, however, some businessmen showed up to claim ownership of the rice and even the new governor, Joseph Marañon, vouched that things were legal.

Residents are still suspicious, though, when the customs official in the city was suddenly relieved and moved elsewhere. Now task forces are being formed—one for the province and one for the city—to look out for smuggled stuff. The horse may have fled the stable but the announcement of the creation of the task forces give good media mileage.

Iloilo artists a nomadic tribe

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

ART enthusiasts who visit Iloilo City and would like to see what its visual artists are up to would have a hard time looking for an arts center like Cebu City's Casa Gorordo or Bacolod City's Art Association Gallery.

However, they may chance upon a big exhibit when they catch a show of the 90-member Iloilo Visual Arts Association (IVAA), an umbrella organization of all Ilonggo visual artists, in malls or any covered space that can accommodate more than 50 paintings and art installations.

Iloilo's visual artists may not have a home of their own but like the wandering Jews, they have banded together.

In late July until the first week of August, more than 50 members of the IVAA will exhibit a painting each at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas Gallery in Iloilo City. The exhibit, titled "Realities in Third World Countries," will also be toured in other schools in the city.

The surge of organized art activities among visual artists in Iloilo is attributed mainly to the artists getting their act together to form the IVAA in September last year.

The artists are pleased with this "feat," considering their "artistic differences" and the different cliques they belong to. Such a disharmony was the reason Iloilo's artists lagged behind their counterparts in other regions in terms of art promotions, grants, training and recognition.

History

Iloilo's visual artists have a history of bickering, banding and disbanding. In 1993, they formed the Iloilo Visual Artists Multipurpose Cooperative but it "died a natural death," according to Jomari Moleta, IVAA's president.

They also used to be part of an organization called *Hublag* under the Arts Council of Iloilo but in 1997, the artists separated from the council because of irreconcilable differences.

Established art groups, independent visual artists and student art groups are now united under the IVAA. "We realized that unless we are united, nothing would happen to visual arts in Iloilo," said Moleta.

IVAA's first salvo was through "*Sanaaw*" (Brightening Light), an exhibit of more than 80 of the best works of IVAA members, held in late February to March at the provincial capitol grounds. It was funded by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in celebration of National Arts Month held every February.

The works of IVAA members ran the gamut of all genres of visual arts: paintings, sculptures, photography, mixed-media works and installations.

Also exhibited at the *Sanaaw* were the entries of Ilonggo finalists to several national painting competitions like those of PG Zoluaga, Alain Hablo, Al Provido, Jun Jun Duarte, Joe Amora and INQUIRER photo correspondent Guijo Dueñas.

For art's sake

Moleta said among the concerns now of the IVAA is finding a place big and affordable enough to serve as a permanent visual arts center in Iloilo City.

The Museo Iloilo on Bonifacio Drive, the traditional exhibit center for local artists, is deemed "too small," while the exhibit area of the nearby Philippine National Bank is "too expensive" as it is rented out for P3,000 a day.

The artists are also concerned with Iloilo City having no school with a degree in visual arts. The nearest that it has to such a degree is architecture, offered by the University of San Agustin.

"Ilonggo artists are very talented judging by their works alone and considering that they win in national competitions. The local art scene must be improved," said Moleta, also an architect.

Art in Iloilo is also mostly art for art's sake and not business. Moleta counts less than 20 local art buyers and collectors who buy artworks as investments.

"How could they (art collectors and buyers) patronize their own when they do not know much about Ilonggo art and artists since many of us do not have exposure? We hope to change that in due time and make the art scene lively here," said Moleta.

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Mosques, homes raided

(From page A1)

Adam Musa, Abdulkarim's son-in-law, followed the military truck that took him to the headquarters in Tabuk.

But Musa and the INQUIRER were ordered to leave. The INQUIRER was also barred from taking photos of those arrested.

As he was being led away, Musa told a military officer: "I just want to talk to my father-in-law. He is not an Abu Sayyaf. Look at what you are doing to our barangay officials (Abbas and Isah). Please allow them even a little dignity as government officials. Remove those ropes (from their hands), let them sit."

Also among those arrested were religious leader Munap Salipddin and his dentist-son Mannar; hardware storeowner Mashur Joji Ismael; businessman Ping Tan; a certain Loi, a student of computer technology; Anwar Abdulhamid; Badran Abdulhamid; Bashir Uyag; and Bashir Tumanggung.

Some of those arrested were reportedly taken to the 103rd Army Brigade headquarters in Barangay Tabiawan.

'Contamination'

Governor Akbar said the arrests were "focused on suspected Abu Sayyaf."

"It's like cleaning the town (of) the contamination of the Abu Sayyaf and its supporters," he said, adding that those "invited for questioning" were victims of extortion and would be asked "why they are giving money monthly to the Abu Sayyaf."

"We want the cooperation of the entire public of Basilan instead of keeping it secret with them. They should tell it to the authorities concerned," Akbar said.

He was referring to Abdulkarim, his cousin, who was reportedly giving money to the Abu Sayyaf as "protection fee" for Baselco's power lines in remote areas.

Zoning

Contacted by phone early yesterday at his base in Zamboanga City, Southern Command spokesperson Col. Danilo Servando said the "zoning" was part of military operations. Asked how long it would continue, he said: "It depends on the field commanders."

Servando could not say if a suspension of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* had been declared.

"I do not know about that. We have not received such a directive from Malacañang," he said.

But he said a thorough study was made prior to the arrests. "Everything they did was based on and according to the bounds of the law, with consideration of the rights of the people," Servando said.

Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, police chief for Western Mindanao, said he was aware of the arrests but could not make any comment.

'Very alarming'

Muslim Affairs development officer Ustadz Sheik Miraji Juaini said the arrests were "very alarming for us Muslims."

He noted that it was the first time such a thing had happened in Tabuk.

Juaini said he would bring up the matter at the Bishops-Ulama Forum today in Zamboanga for discussion and possible action.

He said that while the government's motive was good, the "manner" of the arrests was "something else."

But Akbar, who made the round of Barangays Sumagdang, Kaumpurnah and Tabuk yesterday morning, described the military action as "civilian style."

"It was not militarized, there was consideration for the civilians," he said.

He also said that the "zoning" was "fair and clear," and that "nobody was beaten, hit, deprived of their rights, hurt, touched or molested."

Akbar said the zoning would continue "until it is deemed necessary."

"We cannot allow our province to always be the hideout of kidnappers," he said.

The military has also beefed up security forces along the coastline of Central Mindanao following intelligence reports that beleaguered Abu Sayyaf members in Basilan and Sulu were set to land in the region.

Officials said civilians had been inspired by the bounty offered by the government for the capture of the bandits, and were volunteering information to the authorities.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division in Cotabato City, said followers of Nadzmie Saabdulla alias Commander Global—who, along with three of his men, was arrested in General Santos City last week—had been sighted. "We hope to make more arrests in the coming days," Ando said. "Civilians are coming out, giving us the lead."

'Very dangerous'

Joel Virador, secretary general of Karapatan Southern Mindanao, condemned the military action and urged the administration to exert all efforts to find out who were really involved in the crisis in Basilan.

"We expect the indiscriminate arrest of Moro civilians. This is very dangerous to the civilian population," he told the INQUIRER.

Vifador also said the military action would bring about not only "hatred for the government" but also "sympathy for the Abu Sayyaf."

Officials of the Commission on Human Rights aired varying views.

CHR Regional Director Manual Mamauag said there was still no "concrete evidence" to warrant sending a team to Basilan and conducting an investigation.

He said the CHR had also not received complaints from those arrested or their relatives.

But CHR Commissioner Nasser Marohomsalic said the reported warrantless arrests constituted a "human rights violation by the military."

"That is not allowed. (The soldiers) can be charged for it. I think they should be warned not to do it," Marohomsalic told Mamauag in a phone conversation that was recorded by a radio reporter.

The commissioner said there were certain guidelines that should be followed when "saturation drives" were conducted.

"There should still be arrest warrants," he said. "The object of such saturation drives should be known lairs of criminals. Arresting teams should be headed by officers. There should be coordination with the barangay or local officials."

Marohomsalic reminded authorities to respect the human rights of suspects. He said mere facial identification by spotters was not enough ground to round up the suspects.

"I will have this investigated," he said. "Mere suspicion or mere (facial identification) of people is not sufficient basis to make arrests. Even under our rule on warrantless arrests, this will not qualify."

Thursday arrest

As early as Thursday, police arrested a supposed Abu Sayyaf member reportedly en route to buy medicine for his besieged comrades, Agence France Presse reported.

The suspect, identified as Nujar Morasan, 24, was seized just as he stepped out of the Zamboanga City AE Colleges, said Senior Supt. Damming Ungga.

Morasan was arrested after informants squealed on him, Ungga said.

He added: "Morasan admitted being a guerilla and that he stayed in the mountain for about two months before he decided to hide in Zamboanga last month to escape the ongoing government offensive in Basilan." ***With reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, Jonathan F. Ma, Alexander M. Young and Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP***

Warrantless arrests for 'state of lawlessness'

(From page A1)

during the business forum.

The President said that while there was a "state of lawlessness" in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi and Zamboanga City, she did not have to make such a declaration or suspend the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* because the DOJ had secured arrest warrants for Abu Sayyaf leaders and their conspirators, "including the John Does."

"This is going to be a major, top-level, massive effort, and we hope that the dividends would be seen as early as we saw the (additional P1 billion) dividends coming from the PDIC (Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.) to support this drive," she said.

Perez said anyone who helped the bandits and benefited from them "are part of the conspiracy."

"They are part of the group, and with that we charge them as a principal, as a co-conspirator, so that they can be detained without bail for the reason that they will be charged for a heinous crime," he said.

Challenge

Perez challenged critics to back up their claim that indiscriminate arrests were made in Basilan.

"There is no violation of human rights," he declared. "And besides they don't even know yet what is going on, so it is preposterous. There is no representative (from the Commission on Human Rights) yet, so how can they prove that there is violation of human rights? That's impossible."

He also urged the media and the public to provide the government information that would help in the prosecution of the suspects.

"Give us the information you have," Perez told a reporter who had asked if negotiators who profited from ransom payments would also be charged.

When the reporter declined to name her source, he said: "That's our problem. If we keep our mouths shut, we won't be able to end this problem."

"It is not true that the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* has been suspended," Perez said, adding:

"If those who were arrested feel that they were arrested unjustly, without cause, they can file the necessary petition for *habeas corpus*. But we are going to conduct the inquest. We assure the public that those persons against whom there was no evidence shall not be charged and shall be released."

Perez was accompanied by National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, Senior State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, and top officials of the Philippine National Police regional office and the Crisis Management Committees for Basilan and Sulu.

Memorandum

In his July 13 memorandum issued for Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Perez invoked Article 7, Section 18 of the Constitution in conveying the President's directives and instructions on how to carry out the arrests and searches concerning the Abu Sayyaf and its sympathizers.

"In the wake of the unabated lawlessness perpetrated by the terrorist members of the Abu Sayyaf group, which has resulted in chaos and disorder and caused wanton destruction of lives and property in the provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City, you have been mobilized to suppress the lawless violence prevailing in the area . . ." Perez said.

Thus, the President told hundreds of business leaders who were holding a forum on restoring confidence in the Philippine financial and capital markets, there was no need for her to declare a state of lawlessness.

She said that during the week that her administration was preparing for the crackdown, officials were able to "find the appropriate search warrants for everybody concerned."

"So this is all being done within our present regular constitutional framework. But it is not going to be no less effective than if I had declared a state of anything," she said, drawing laughter from her audience.

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, explained his earlier statement that a state of lawlessness had been declared in the specified areas.

"There is a state of lawlessness but there is no need for a declaration. Because under the Constitution, when the President calls on the Armed Forces to suppress lawless violence, it is implicit that there is a recognition of a state of lawlessness," Tiglao told the INQUIRER.

The crackdown against the Abu Sayyaf was one of the measures the President announced at the forum to shore up the economy.

The business leaders broke into applause at her announcement.

The President said the crackdown included operations to identify and arrest the bandits, confiscate equipment and tools of terrorism, and segregate their active supporters.

"These terrorist supporters include those who provide weapons, ammunition, food supply, information, safehouses and sanctuaries to these anti-peace and anti-Filipino elements," she said.

Warrantless arrests

The guidelines Perez issued allow the military to conduct warrantless arrests on persons "found committing or attempting to commit an offense, or has just committed an offense" pursuant to and under the conditions specified in Section 5, Rule 113 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure.

In the case of Abu Sayyaf members, the guidelines indicate that "based on verified information, probable cause exists against all (of them), their co-conspirators, associates and agents."

The term probable cause means authorities do not need to secure warrants before arresting Abu Sayyaf members.

Perez said the guidelines were issued to Reyes and Vilanueva "in aid of your mandate and to enhance your military operations in the aforesaid areas while ensuring at the same time the protection of the constitutional rights of the citizens."

The guidelines allow checkpoints in strategic places to prevent the escape of lawless elements and are supposed to be limited to visual searches only.

The public should also be properly informed about the checkpoint's installation and purpose, and it should stand only for a limited period "or only while the reason for the establishment of the checkpoint exists."

However, if officers at the checkpoints have probable cause to believe that passengers of a vehicle are members of the Abu Sayyaf, "then immediate arrest as provided above ought to be effected," the guidelines said.

But the militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said Malacañang strategists were "fabricating tall tales" to justify the supposed state of lawlessness in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City.

"The government is not only after the Abu Sayyaf. It is inclined to repeat (Joseph) Estrada's war of destruction against the Moro people in general," Gerry Albert-Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer, said in a statement.

"Ms Macapagal and her military want to please the business community by staging a show of their own. This will be done at the expense of innocent civilians, the usual suspects and fall guys," he said.

Cotabato kidnappers threaten to behead Chinese engineer

A GROUP of Moro gunmen has threatened to behead a Chinese engineer kidnapped a month ago if the ransom demand is not paid, according to a video tape sent to the media by the bandits.

Zhang Zong Quiang, 43, the manager of construction firm China Import Export Technology Inc., was seized while on his way home in North Cotabato province from nearby Davao City on June 20.

The $4-million ransom demand was relayed through a video tape released to the local media in Cotabato City Friday by renegade guerrillas of the largest Muslim separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Zhang appeared on the tape, looking haggard and tired as he was surrounded by about 15 heavily armed men.

The kidnappers threatened to behead him if the ransom was not met. They did not impose a deadline.

Zhang looked puzzled as the captors, some of them wearing masks, spoke in a local Mindanao dialect. They kept repeating that the Chinese government was "capable" of paying the ransom.

The Chinese Embassy was not immediately available for comment, and it was not immediately known which part of China he is from.

Zhang's construction firm is a subcontractor to a Japanese-funded irrigation dam in North Cotabato.

The MILF is currently negotiating a peace treaty with the government to end a 23-year rebellion.

A smaller rebel group, the Abu Sayyaf, is holding 21 American and Filipino hostages in Basilan province. ***AFP***

Blair on Basilan crisis: Gov't doing 'a fine job'

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE PHILIPPINE government is doing "a fine job" regarding the Basilan hostage crisis, according to Adm. Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific Fleet.

At a press conference yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo with Armed Forces chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, the visiting admiral said the US government recognized the "tough job down there in the South in terms of the terrain and complexity of the operations."

He said the US government's primary concern was the safety of the three Americans among the 20 people abducted by the Abu Sayyaf on May 27 from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

The Abu Sayyaf claimed to have beheaded one of the Americans, Guillermo Sobero. Freed captives reported that the two others, Martin and Gracia Burnham, were alive and well.

Blair did not say how the United States was helping resolve the crisis although Malacanang had previously acknowledged its "technical assistance."

"When countries cooperate from the point of view of intelligence, training, mutual access to information and working together, the terrorist cannot succeed. And those are the areas that we have to emphasize," Blair said.

He stressed that no US forces were involved in operations, and said the Philippines had "the clear lead of responsibility."

Villanueva said the hostage crisis was "just a matter that passed by" at yesterday's 43rd anniversary meeting of the Mutual Defense Board, which he and Blair co-chair.

"It's a matter of intelligence exchange only, and on the actual details of this one, we just have to. . . " Villanueva said before trailing off.

But in a statement, Dani Beltran, secretary general of the human rights group Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, said US assistance in the hostage crisis only served to "highlight the AFP's inability to address the Abu Sayyaf banditry."

Beltran said the Philippine government should instead focus on getting rid of corrupt members of the military and police as well as investigating their links with the Abu Sayyaf.

Macapagal attends JDV dinner

(From page A1)

the 12th Congress.

The dinner, a clear show of force, came amid reports that De Venecia's Sunshine Coalition was on the brink of collapse and that 60 congressmen had committed to block his bid for the coveted Speakership.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said Ms Macapagal's presence at Thursday's dinner was "a very strong symbolic gesture that we already have the presidential seal on the Speakership of Representative De Venecia."

De Venecia, too, dismissed the report that 60 congressmen had joined a Liberal Party and Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino alliance working for the election of Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad.

"If at all, the only battle left to be waged is the toss-up for the next minority leader," De Venecia said.

He now claims that support for his bid has swelled to 180 congressmen.

De Venecia asserted that the Lakas-led People Power Coalition is still solidly backing his bid and even says that he has drawn the support of one-third of the opposition LP and LDP.

Earlier, the 50-member Nationalist People's Coalition, led by Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, had pledged its support for him.

De Venecia also claimed that 33 of the 37 women elected to the 12th Congress have declared their support for his bid to regain House leadership.

He said he will soon announce the names of those who support his candidacy at a multi-party caucus.

Neophyte solon Ted Failon (Leyte) confirmed that "a majority of the Visayas congressmen have thrown their support behind De Venecia."

The former Speaker of the 10th Congress maintained that the congressmen who have thrown their support behind him were convinced about the platform of legislation he has laid out in his "Economic Action Plan 747."

"The Sunshine Coalition is composed of committed (legislators) who share the vision of EAP 747," he said.

De Venecia said the focus has shifted as to who will lead the opposition in the 12th Congress, which opens on July 23.

The race for minority leader has been narrowed down to Representatives Agapito Aquino (Makati), Carlos Padilla (Nueva Ecija), Ronaldo Zamora (San Juan) and Abad.

"I hope they will be able to thresh this out among themselves," De Venecia said.

'Predictable'

He said he had attracted the support of a majority of the congressmen with his proposal to adopt a housing program to utilize P270 billion in non-performing assets of private commercial banks for the building of 400,000 houses annually by private housing developers.

The proposal is part of his EAP 747, which targets a growth rate of 7 percent for the next seven years.

But former Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez, who had hosted another dinner on Wednesday night formalizing the LP-LDP alliance, said De Venecia's political leadership was "predictable and very traditional."

"You cannot change him and there is little chance we will see reforms in Congress with him as Speaker again," said Suarez, who served in the 9th and 10th Congresses under De Venecia's Speakership.

Suarez said De Venecia's proposals were only "hyped-up, dramatic programs that are undoable." ***With a report from Gerald Lacuarta***

Government cloaks military with legality

(From page A1)

The authority is directed against the Abu Sayyaf group, their co-conspirators, associates and agents. Or, anybody who performs any act that promotes the activities of the terrorist group in the places mentioned.

The three-page memo of Perez merely reiterated the existing rules on arrests without warrant, the right of an arrested person to be informed of his rights, allowable searches without warrant and the operation of checkpoints.

The memo rests on the provision in the Constitution that "the President shall be the Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces of the Philippines and whenever it becomes necessary he may call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion."

The AFP's role in national governance, as spelled out in the Constitution, is to "secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory." In other words, to protect the country from outside forces that degrade or diminish the authority of the national government over its land, sea and air boundaries.

The responsibility and authority to maintain peace and order and enforce the laws of the land rest with the police and other law enforcement agencies. Arrest, search, seizure and detention are basically police functions. Only those specifically authorized by law to undertake these activities can lawfully perform them.

Thus, when a crime suspect is captured by AFP troopers in the course of a military operation, he is turned over to the police for investigation and the filing the appropriate charges in court.

Warrantless arrests

Nothing can be more frustrating to the AFP and the justice department than to find their hands tied down or restrained from prosecuting suspected Abu Sayyaf members or supporters because the suspects were not informed of their rights at the time of their arrest or were detained beyond the period allowed by law.

The grant of authority to the AFP to arrest, search and detain the Abu Sayyaf suspects is subtly provided for in the enumeration by the memo of the conditions under which an arrest without a warrant can be effected.

One of those conditions is "when an offense has just been committed and he (referring to the arresting officer) has probable cause to believe based on personal knowledge of facts or circumstances that the person to be arrested has committed it.

Wisely, in relation to this particular provision, the justice secretary states that "based on verified information, probable cause exists against all members of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group, their co-conspirators, associates and agents."

The justice department, the mother unit of the prosecuting arm of the government, has declared that the persons mentioned have been found to have probably committed the crimes for which they are being hunted by the AFP.

With "probable cause" about the commission of the crime already established, their arrest comes not only as a matter of course but of obligation. The AFP personnel in the affected areas have been accorded the cloak of legality to undertake the arrest.

GMA favors Drilon but 'not in public'

(From page A1)

for a forum on restoring confidence in Philippine financial and capital markets.

The President chose to hold her press conference at the business forum where she announced the massive crackdown in Basilan that resulted in the arrest of 32 Abu Sayyaf members. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Ms Macapagal admitted preference for Drilon, though she tried to soft-pedal the impact of her endorsement saying she minded being asked about the fight for the Senate presidency.

"That's supposed to be their business. And if you coax any statement from me, they will hit me again tomorrow for meddling," she said.

The President declined to talk about the term-sharing scheme being explored between Drilon and Senate Minority Leader Rene Cayetano of the ruling Lakas party, which is part of the administration People Power Coalition (PPC).

"That's for them to work out," she said.

The President had admitted to meeting with Senate President aspirants and other PPC senators on July 1 and told them that she wanted the issue resolved within the 12 PPC members of the Senate.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, the lone opposition candidate for the top Senate post, lashed out at Ms Macapagal for meddling in the Senate race.

"I can only conclude that the President, even this early, is more interested in her reelection (in 2004) because she's more partisan than most," he said.

Ms Macapagal's endorsement of Drilon is not expected to affect the negotiations between two blocs of PPC senators seeking the Senate leadership, an insider of one of the blocs yesterday said.

A few hours before Ms Macapagal confirmed her preference for Drilon, the blocs led by Drilon's rivals—Cayetano and Sen. Joker Arroyo—had met to forge an alliance.

Cayetano's group is made up of senators belonging to the Lakas-NUCD bloc that includes Senators Juan Flavier, Loren Legarda and Robert Barbers. The Arroyo bloc comprises Senators Manny Villar, Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan.

Yesterday's meeting between the two blocs was described by the insider as "fruitful" because of their "new approach" to the problem.

"They have reversed the process of resolving the Senate presidency issue by first getting the numbers before settling the Senate presidency issue and the chairmanship of the Senate committees," said the insider, who asked not to be named.

Not bothered

The source said that the two blocs were not bothered at all by the President's endorsement of Drilon.

"If it were a close fight, the preference of the President would matter but in a lopsided fight, the President's choice would become illusory," the insider said.

The insider stressed that Drilon, like Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, who wants to retain his seat, had no following in the PPC.

"It's a game of numbers and the numbers (in the two blocs) are shaping up," the insider said.

As of yesterday, the insider said the two blocs counted in Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Serge Osmeña to their side.

Magsaysay and Osmeña, who are both abroad, had been earlier described by the insider as the two "floating" senators on the side of the PPC.

Straw vote

A straw vote, and not Ms Macapagal, may break the impasse among PPC senators vying for the Senate presidency, according to Sen. Juan Flavier.

It was Flavier who brokered the failed talks between Drilon and Cayetano.

Flavier said some "non-contenders" from the PPC, numbering nine to ten senators, would be meeting Tuesday to vote for their candidates.

But in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, Drilon said he was not keen on the idea, saying it will not solve the issue.

"The only vote that should take place is the vote on July 23," he said of the final vote when the 12th Congress opens.

In an interview with radio dzBB, Flavier said they would go for a straw vote if the deadlock were not resolved soon.

He said the straw vote scheme was agreed upon by PPC senators two weeks ago.

"If they cannot settle it, the agreement two weeks ago was for us to vote for the four contenders in a straw vote, with us voting for all of them in the first cut and then removing the lowest two in the second cut," he said.

He said the one chosen from the remaining two would be the common candidate of the PPC.

"The President wants us to resolve it among ourselves, otherwise, we will be forced to bring it to her," Flavier said.

Reservations

Drilon has reservations on the straw vote scheme.

"The matter of straw votes will not solve anything," he said.

He said the allocation of committees to senators was the "key" to solving the problem.

Regardless of who wins in the straw vote, he will continue to seek the support of his colleagues, according to Drilon.

He reiterated that he welcomed the intervention of Ms Macapagal as PPC head if the deadlock remained unresolved.

Status quo

He admitted, though, that if a workable solution was not reached, a "status quo may happen." This means that Pimentel will retain his post.

In an interview, Pimentel said he was the "man to beat" in the Senate race.

"I have always been a compromise candidate. Remember, I was voted by both sides during the impeachment" trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada, he said.

"You are probably correct in saying that neither side would want to give way and would only probably have me as a compromise. That's what democracy is all about, compromise," Pimentel said.

He warned that the infighting in the PPC might break up the coalition. "I think the walls of the coalition are falling apart," he said.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said he would no longer intervene in the Senate presidency race and would just leave it up to the PPC senators to settle the dispute.

"No (I have no plans to intervene); they're the ones talking. Give them the chance to talk and agree," said Guingona, who is president of Lakas.

He said the Lakas party would remain intact even if the PPC were to disband as a result of the dispute over the Senate presidency. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

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Manila – Zamboanga	533	1066	Manila – Roxas	250	500
Manila – Cagayan de Oro	488	976	Manila – Kalibo	250	500
Manila – Dumaguete	400	800	Cebu – Davao	250	500
Manila – Cebu	356	712	Iloilo – Cebu	250	500
Manila – Tacloban	353	706	Bacolod – Cebu	250	500
Manila – Bacolod	299	598	Davao – Zamboanga	250	500
Manila – Iloilo	281	562			

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Of mice and men

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I DO not know if I'll congratulate Angelo Que or not.

Was his act of bolting the national golf team bound for the Kuala Lumpur Sea Games heroic?

You see, he said he did it to sympathize with his friend, Cookie La'O. Cookie was left out because he failed to pass the criteria set by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

I am sure it was a painful decision for the golf officials to exclude Cookie, a former World Amateurs player in Santiago, Chile, in 1998 and one of the heroes in our gold medal victory in the 1999 Brunei Sea Games.

But I'm also sure that before arriving at their decision, the officials must have exerted all efforts to evaluate Cookie's records. Our golf officials had this ratings system which monitored the year-round performance of our top amateurs; they found him not making the grade this time

My heart bled for Cookie when I was told the news.

But my heart bled more for Angelo when the 22-year-old fireball left the team.

Why, oh, why Angelo?

Friendship is one thing, flag and country is another.

Your countrymen needing you that bad in Kuala Lumpur defies the fabric of your friendship with Cookie. Isn't it true that when we are called to do duty for the flag, we forget even the interest of our loved ones, including that of our parents? We gladly, proudly, offer ourselves to the altar of patriotism.

You can always have Cookie as your friend, Angelo. Till the day you die, if you want to. But you can never have that gold in Kuala Lumpur by being beside Cookie in Manila when the Sea Games golf competition is on.

You can always say the gold does not interest you any more, Angelo. Only your Cookie matters at the moment.

Actually, when you win a gold, that gold is not absolutely yours to savor. When you play for the country, the country co-owns whatever honor—or dishonor—you bring home. In fact, you are but a tool of the flag.

Friendship is nice. We all have nice friends. But then, choosing friendship over flag is definitely not nice.

That's a mice decision.

CAP-LEGENDS GOLF

Delariarte still up by 4

DELARIARTE: Continues to sizzle. FILE PHOTO

CARMONA, Cavite—Jerome Delariarte shot a three-under-par 69 yesterday in a stunning follow-up to his 65 the day before and retained his four-stroke lead in the rain-delayed second round of the College Assurance Plan-Legends Classics here.

Delariarte, 22, put himself in a position to become the first amateur to win a professional tournament since Cassius Casas did it in the 1992 Chief of Staff Cup.

The Southwoods bet had a 36-hole aggregate of 10-under-par 134 at the Legends, which survived a 2-1/2-hour rain.

Delariarte's mettle will be put to a test when he gets paired with Mars Pucay and Elmer Salvador in the final threesome of today's third round.

Pucay duplicated Delariarte's first-round 65 yesterday, shooting a 30 coming home.

Salvador, the former national amateur champion hungry for a first pro win, had a second 69.

Recent Philippine Open winner Casas went birdie-eagle on his first two holes en route to a 68, putting him five strokes behind Delariarte in a tie for fourth with Benjie Magada (67) at 139.

"*Wala naman kasing* pressure *sa akin*. I just play my game. I guess nobody expects me to remain there on top *naman*," said Delariarte.

Delariarte, playing bogeyless in Round 1, made one bogey yesterday—on No. 3 where he overshot the green and missed an eight-foot putt.

"*Maganda lang siguro ang timing ko ngayon*," said the 31-year-old Pucay, the 1997 Open runner-up in Baguio who finished second in the U-Bix Open last year. "Medyo binago lang ni Roger (Retuerto) ang swing plane ko."

Five bridies from within six feet including a near eagle on the par-5 14th punctuated Pucay's round although he slowed down with a lone birdie on the par-3 seventh.

Tied for ninth at 141 were Edgar Ababa (70), Dan Cruz (68) and Rodrigo Cuello (67).

Gerald Rosales double-bogeyed the 14th after finding the water on his second shot. He had three birdies for a 71 that put him at 141, the same card of Edwin Sanchez and Danny Zarate who could only register a 70 after a first day 71.

Scores:

134—J. Delariarte (65-69); **138**—M. Pucay (73-65), E. Salvador (69-69); **139**—F. Casas (71-68), B. Magada (72-67); **140**—E. Ababa (70-70), D. Cruz (72-68), R. Cuello (73-67); **141**—G. Rosales (71-70), E. Sanchez (72-69), D. Zarate (71-70); **142**—R. Pactolerin (73-69); **143**—R. Minoza (72-71), V. Santia (73-70); **144**—A. Que (70-74), A. Eso (73-71); **145**—E. Estrera (74-71), M. Manubay (70-75), R. Sasutil (74-71); **146**—J. Bernis (75-71), R. Gibson (75-71), L. Rempojo (70-76), R. Retuerto (74-72), C. Villaroman (76-70)

'4' to air RP Open July 16-17

THOSE who missed watching the Philippine Open Golf Championship at Wack Wack will have a chance to see the Open's drama on July 16 and July 17 over PTV-4.

Telecasts for each day begins at 10 p.m.

Rod Feliciano, president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines, decided to have the Open presented on TV "to afford our countrymen to savor once more the thrills and excitement of the nation's premiere golfing event."

Feliciano was joint-chair of the Open's executive committee together with Ben Abalos, president of Wack Wack and MMDA chair.

Cassius Casas pocketed P1.5 million in the P9.5-million event copresented by Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer, with Mitsubishi as a hole-in-one sponsor.

The 34-year-old Casas scored 70-71-70-70 to beat Danny Zarate by five strokes and six shots over Australian David Gleeson.

Gerard Cantada placed fourth but in a noble move, he donated P200,000 from his prize to the victims of the Mayon Volcano eruption.

Mike Arroyo raises P20M

A TOTAL of P20M was raised in the recently-concluded GMA-Philippine Business for Social Progress Golf Cup. First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, former President Fidel V. Ramos and Oscar Reyes, chair of Shell companies in the Philippines, graced the one-day event. Ricardo Pascua, president and Chief Executive Officer of the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., co-chaired the organizing committee. The tournament brought together business leaders, government officials and ambassadors. The proceeds will be used for the Mindanao Peace and Development Program and President Arroyo's projects.

'Minor kinks left for SEAG preparation'

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission announced yesterday only a few minor kinks are left in the country's preparation for the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

PSC Chair Carlos D. Tuason, in underscoring a directive by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to stamp as priority the country's Sea Games bid, said the government sports agency has religiously coordinated with the Philippine Olympic Committee and national sports associations on the preparations for the biennial meet.

"The fact that we started early preparations for the Sea Games is easing off pressure from both the PSC and the POC, particularly on the acquisition of equipment," said Tuason.

To date, the PSC has spent about P30 million on training and competition equipment for 29 NSAS that are sending athletes to the SEA Games.

A PSC-POC Sea Games Task Force, he said, has started operations as early as January.

"The Task Force is responsible in all administrative concerns and decisions arrived at are done collegially, strictly complying with the agreement forged between the PSC-POC," Tuason said.

Besides, the agency also has bankrolled the foreign exposure of all 29 NSAs' athletes, the figure reaching 50 million to include the necessary advance training requirements, travel processing, athletes and coaches' daily subsistence and accommodation, among others.

The Philippines is competing in 29 of 32 Malaysia has calendared for the Sea Games. And to guarantee that all 29 NSAs would be prepared for the games, each was allowed at least one foreign exposure, which also served as a gauge for the selection of their athletes for the delegation.

Tuason said the PSC and POC are looking at a delegation of more or less 400 athletes and officials, perhaps the most rational figure considering the number of sports the country is competing in.

Subic Centennial overall champion

SUBIC Centennial, skippered by Standard Insurance president Judes Echauz, won as IRC Overall Champion of the September 2000-June 2001 sailing season under Manila Yacht Club Commodore Peter Capotosto.

Subic Centennial, a Bashford 46 multi-titled awardee in local and Asian regional sailing, also won the IRC Off-shore Season Overall Champion and placed second in overall aggregate points.

Echauz, Philippine Sailing Association president, commended Subic Centennial's all-Filipino crew of SEA Games veterans Medy Fidel, Allan Balladares, Mark Gil Francsico, Jojo Tayong, Olympian Balting Asejo, 2001 SEAG-bound Bernard Floren and Richly Magsanay (with Balladares, Francisco and Tayong).

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Rio Rossa 2. Arabica 3. Witch Craft
Race 2—1. Proud Conquistador 2. Musika 3. Dixie Dancer
Race 3—1. Free Time 2. Maginoo's Pride 3. Rhythmic Charm 4. Big Kahuna 5. Adrenalin
Race 4—1. Speed Charm 2. C'est Magnifique 3. Color of the Wind 4. Pen Tristram 5. Silver Angel
Race 5—1. Sheer Courage 2. Dragon Strike 3. Ann's Magic 4. Silent Wind
Race 6—1. Dial Tone 2. Passionately 3. CJ's Pride 4. Inside Treasure 5. Mia's Pet
Race 7—1. Magnificent Seven 2. Midnight Rose 3. Speed Goddess 4. October Sky
Race 8—1. Breakaway Artist 2. Irish Star 3. Loose Cannon 4. Miguel's Pet 5. Exchange Deal
Race 9—1. Courage 2. Nuts Again 3. Sunrise 4. The King
Race 10—1. Noble House 2. Inner Wheeler 3. Princely Native
Race 11—1. Green Buck 2. Mr. Lucas 3. Queen Storm 4. Repertoire 5. Memorabilia
Race 12—1. Ever Green 2. Red Hahn 3. Santa Fe 4. Unknown Entry
Race 13—1. Talk to Patsy 2. Suterian Era 3. Southern Glory 4. Gracious Heart 5. Traktora

Kentucky foals

LEXINGTON, Kentucky—Scientists are convinced that cyanide naturally present in cherry tree leaves was responsible for the mysterious illness that killed hundreds of foals and fetuses in Kentucky thoroughbred country this spring.

SPORTSWATCH

Bataan venue for chessfest

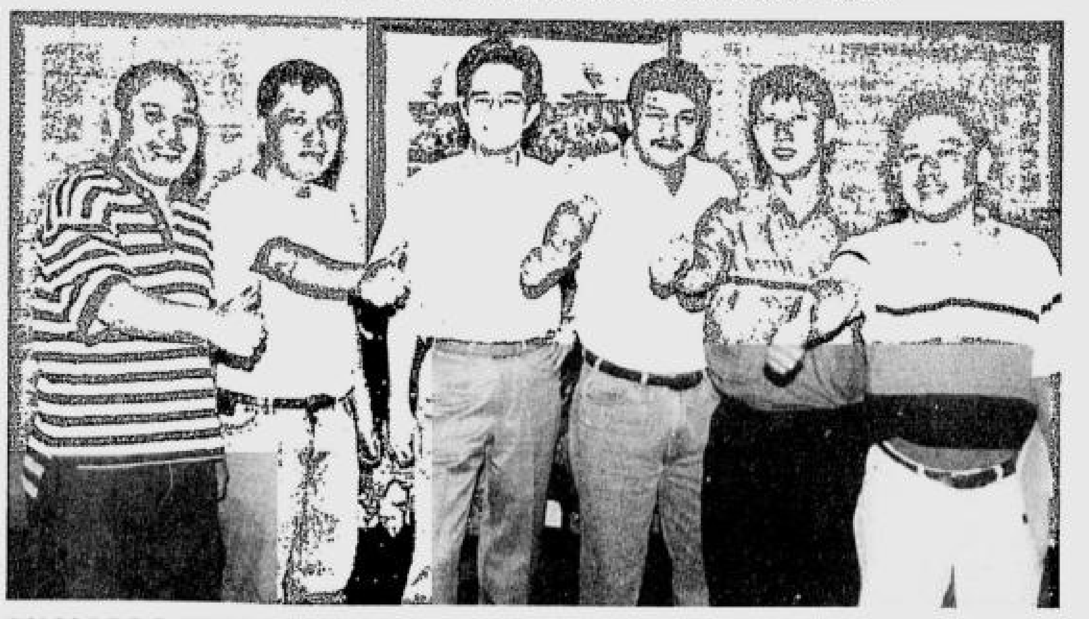
THE 2001 National Inter-Provincial Chess Tam Championship will kick off on Aug. 25 at Bataan Peoples Center, Balanga, Bataan. The annual event, organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines in cooperation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, will be hosted by the Provincial Government of Bataan headed by Gov. Leonardo B. Roman. Expected to see action in the tournament are the country's top chess players who will be representing the different provinces nationwide.

Lipovitan soccer unwraps

A TOTAL of 11 teams are seeing action in the inaugural 1st Lipovitan 4 on 4 soccer campus tour which began yesterday at the Don Bosco Technical College Gum in Gen. Kalentong Street, Mandaluyong City. Project director Dexter Araquel said the 10-day tournament will feature exciting action from the country's top college and high school footballers. Competing teams in the Lipovitan XL college division are Don Bosco, Rizal Technological College, Jose Rizal University, Savio Youth, Industrial Technician Center and Alumni of Don Bosco. La Salle Greenhills topbills the LPO HS side which is also composed of Savio, Jose Rizal U, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong and Don Bosco.

'Tukaan' derby at Roligon

COCKERS from Metro Manila and the provinces will meet in the Tukaan 4-Cock Derby today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Hosted by Emoy Gorgonia, producer-host of the popular noontime cocking show over Channel 13, this derby will be participated in by big-time breeders such as Boy Lechon, Boy Diaz, Lito Orillosa, William Go, Peter Macky (Ronnel Tanada), Tiling Capitan, Dante Eustaquio, Boy Espineli and Jun-jun Esperanza. Metro cockers like lawyer Rudy Salud, Jun Sevilla, Jun Topacio and Nody Lim and others also confirmed their participation in this derby sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc.



BILLIARDS BETS

Efren "Bata" Reyes and three other RP bets in the WPA World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, give the thumbs up sign as they pose with Puyat Sports President Aristeo "Putch" Puyat before they left for the tournament which commences today. From left Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego,Leonardo "Dodong" Andam,Puyat, Reyes, Rodolfo "Boy" Luat and manager Rolando Vicente, who accompanied the players to Cardiff.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit #2222 Series of 2001

64th UAAP cagefest on; Eagle-Archer tomorrow

PUMAREN (left) vs Lipa. FILE PHOTO

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
1 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
2 p.m.—UP vs AdU (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs UST (Srs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE MAIN dish will not be served till tomorrow but not to worry. Today's 64th opening of the UAAP season at the historic Araneta Coliseum promises to be a grand feast just like in the past.

1997 champion Far Eastern U, tagged as pre-tournament favorite by virtue of its wondrous pre-season records, tackles UST in the main game of the stellar men's basketball championships at 4 p.m.

At 2 p.m., University of the Philippines and last year's losingest team, Adamson, collide right after the opening traditional pomp and pageantry at 1 p.m.

Host FEU has promised a fast-paced and festive "palabas" spiced with high-energy dance numbers which will rejuvenate the youthful crowd.

Of course, the much-awaited La Salle-Ateneo encounter will happen 24 hours later as they meet at 4 p.m. tomorrow, also at the Big Dome.

Undoubtedly the league's premier team, proud and mighty La Salle, is aiming for a "four-ward," while Ateneo is trying to reclaim the diadem they last held in 1987-88.

The Green Archers lost mainstays Mon Jose, Mac Cuan, Alvin Castro and Mugsy Magsumbol but they still have enough punch to knock out title pretenders and march to another banner year. Franz Pumaren remains as Archer coach.

Wesley Gonzalez is missing from Ateneo's rosters but the Eagles' claws look sharper and deadlier than the same quintet which placed third last year. Joe Lipa is now in the final year of his three-year contract as Ateneo coach.

Sharpshooter Ren Ren Ritualo, Mika Vainio, Mike Cortez, Adonis Sta. Maria, Manny Ramos, Willy Wilson and rookies Mike Gavino, Joseph Yeo and Christian Cabatu banner La Salle. If BJ Manalo will be in tip-top shape after battling a foot injury, the Archers are assured of added firepower.

Rebounding monsters Enrico Villanueva and Rich Alvarez plus swingman Rainier Sison are still around for Ateneo, which squandered a twice-to-beat advantage to FEU in last year's Final Four.

Studio 23, backed up by its core of talented and youthful broadcasters plus student recruits, will televise the opening ceremonies live.

Graf, 32, pregnant

LAS VEGAS — Tennis stars Steffi Graf and Andre Agassi confirmed Thursday that they are expecting a baby.

"This is a very exciting time for us," Agassi said in a statement. "We are so happy to have been blessed with this gift."

Graf is 32 years old.

The baby, the first for both, is due in mid-December.

"I do not know what their plans are for marriage," said Todd Wilson, spokesman for Agassi Enterprises.

Agassi was previously married to actress Brooke Shields. After they married in April 1997, Agassi's ranking tumbled to No. 141. They divorced two years later, and when he began dating Graf in 1999 in Paris, he began a career comeback by winning the French Open. He's currently the third-ranked men's player in the world. *AP*

Anton top pick in Shell racing

Overall standing after eight rounds: 1. C. Anton (MP Turbo) 101 points; 2. C. Pastor (Team TEC); 3. A. Padua (MP Turbo) 58; 4. M. David (Caltex) 57; 5. E. Pastor (Team TEC) 56; 6. G. Apacible (MP Turbo) 51; 7. T. Pastor (Team TEC) 15.

CARLOS Anton of MP Turbo tries to firm up his hold on the overall standings when the ninth and 10th rounds of the Shell Philippines Junior Touring Car Championship get under way on Sunday, July 15, at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Looking fit and confident in his green and white Hyundai Elantra, Anton is heavily favored to extend winning streak in this prestigious, 12-part series organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) in cooperation with Shell Helix, Shell Velocity and Shell Citibank Mastercard.

The Baguio-bred Anton swept the seventh and eighth rounds held in Subic on June 17 to pull away in the overall standings with 101 points based on the 15-12-10-8-6 scoring system.

Erstwhile leader Carlo Pastor of Team TEC remains as the only threat to Anton's ambitious title campaign in this annual series also sponsored by Kilton Motors, Norkis Yamaha, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, CGU Insurance, Llumar, Phil. Internet Directory and MOF Company.

Pastor is mired in second place with 72 points, although he can still dislodge Anton from his lofty perch with a sweep in the remaining four rounds.

The battle for third place is a lot more exciting with four veteran drivers still in strong contention.

Alex Padua of MP Turbo is running third with 58 points, followed closely by Mikko David of Caltex in fourth place with 57 points and Enzo Pastor of Team TEC in fifth place with 56 points.

For details call BRCA at tel. 817-2469.

Underdogs steal show in Petron

SUBIC—Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speewdelle-Outlast Battery failed to finish twice while Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA sputtered once, allowing Mike Potenciano, Benedict de la Cruz and the rest of participants to tighten the race in the Blaze super saloon category in the Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway here Sunday.

Hardly bothered by the three-car mishap that took series leader Ong out of the race right in the first lap, the Gulf Oil-MP Turbo sponsored Potenciano produced a daring run in the final stretches of the morning race to rule the action-packed ninth round.

And De la Cruz, greatly benefiting from another early-race collision ivolving Ong and Louie Ramirez of Petron-SRA, snatched top honors in the 10th round over Nilo Pazcoguin of Caltex-Tom's Asia and Mike Aguilar of Caltex

More than 100 join triathlon

CLOSE to a hundred boys and girls from 7 to 18 years old showed up in the recently concluded second leg of the Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon series at the Corinthian Gardens in Quezon City.

Organized by the First Wave Events, Inc., the four-leg series is aimed at encouraging the youth to go into sports like swimming, biking and running, according to Raul Cuevas.

"This program complements our national age group program, which in turn produces the athletes for our developmental training pool and the national team," said Tom Carrasco, president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines, which fully supported the event.

National triathlon team members and coaching staff Abet Alon-alon, George Vilog, Sandy Araullo, Kay Lopez and Leian Cruz were also present as volunteer officials for the event sponsored by Smart Money, Vaseline Shampoo and Lifebuoy.

Winners of the triathlon event in the 15 to 18 years old category were Julian Araos in the boys' side, and Aigel Serrano and Jelly Fugoso in the distaff.

In the 11 to 14 age group, top finishers in the boys' division were Danny Deistro; Josef Alden Guillen, and Caesar David Raval, while Mimi Lucas, Vida Serrano, and Angela Alon-alon ruled the girls' side.

Suns jettison Kidd

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

EXPECT a lot of fireworks once the NBA lifts the 18-day trade and free-agent signing moratorium on July 18.

The NBA and its players' union had earlier agreed to shorten that period, which previously ran for a month from July 1 to August 1.

During the moratorium, teams may negotiate with, but not sign, free agents. Players selected in the draft can be signed, though, since they carry salaries that are fixed by the league under the rookie wage scale. Based on the collective bargaining agreement, first-round draft choices are guaranteed three-year contracts worth between $2 million and $11 million.

The moratorium also is used by NBA lawyers and executives to compute financial figures that determine the league-wide salary cap, which is a percentage of basketball-related income. The cap for the 2001-02 season is expected to rise $44 million. Any amount above the $55-57 million figure also is subject to the luxury tax, which club owners are obligated to pay to the league.

Although the moratorium is currently still in effect, non-binding verbal commitments can be made by teams at any time.

So far, the Phoenix Suns, who have an early first-round playoff exit in five of the last six years, have agreed in principle to trade a pair of starters—playmaker Jason Kidd and forward Cliff Robinson—who were their second—and third-leading scorers last season in separate transactions.

The Suns are scheduled to jettison Kidd, the three-time NBA assist leader, to the New Jersey Nets for another All-Star point guard, Stephon Marbury, as part of a deal that will be completed when the ceasefire is lifted next week. Several other players will have to be involved to make the trade work under salary-cap rules. One rule states that the combined salaries of traded players must be within 15 percent of one another plus $100,000.

Since Marbury will bankroll $11 million next campaign and Kidd will only make around $8.5 million, an exchange of secondary players is necessary. The Suns are expected to ship center Chris Dudley to the Nets (who will later waive him) and acquire forward Johnny Newman and center Soumaila Samake from New Jersey.

Phoenix also is set to ship Robinson to the Detroit Pistons for a pair of substitutes, forward John Wallace and swingman Jud Buechler.

St. Benilde tests San Beda

STANDINGS	W	L
JRU	2	0
UPHR	1	1
SSC	1	1
San Beda	1	0
St. Benilde	1	0
Letran	0	1
PCU	0	1
Mapua	0	2

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)*
12 nn—San Beda vs St. Benilde (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—Letran vs PCU (jrs/srs)

DEFENDING champion College of St. Benilde battles dangerous San Beda today in the NCAA basketball cage wars at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Blazers touched off their title-retention bid with aplomb as they repulsed the Letran Knights, 71-65, during the opener last week.

But their 1:30 p.m. encounter opposite the Red Lions is expected to be a tougher affair as the Mendiola-based dribblers enter the floor also fresh from an opening-day triumph.

Flashing speed to offset their ceiling deficiency, the diminutive Red Lions turned back host Philippine Christian University, 93-85, sending a clear message they should not be taken for granted.

"Pressure will surely mount on the side of the Blazers as they are the defending champions," said Rene Baena, the Red Lions' coach.

Dance sport competition at Ninoy today

THE DANCE Sport Council of the Philippines will stage its 5th Mid-Year Ranking and Competition for the Alaxan Cup at 2 p.m. today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium, with dance athletes from all over the country competing.

According to DSCP founding president Becky Garcia, German international coach and adjudicator Wolfgang Opitz will head the panel of foreign judges together with two more adjudicators from Hong Kong and Singapore. The year's biggest dance competition is sponsored by Doctor Trusted Alaxan, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Rainforest, Dance Exchange, Savanah Moon, ABC-5 Eezy Dancing, NBC Radio 1026 AM and Century Park Hotel.

Bonifacio pockets taekwondo gold

CHUNCHON, South Korea—Margarita Bonifacio won the heavyweight gold medal in the recent 2nd Korea Open international taekwondo championships, her first ever international title in four years.

The 22-year-old, 5-foot-5 Bonifacio, a second-year Ateneo Graduate School student, outsteadied Thailand's Saichol Kumsan, 1-0, to banner the Petron Philippine Team campaign.

Bonifacio smartly set up her attacks and maintained a strong defense to topple the much taller Thai, who had earlier eliminated her Croatian and Korean rivals.

"I was so thrilled and happy to win," said Bonifacio, who has been competing for the Petron Philippine team since 1997.

Bonifacio's golden triumph capped a four-medal performance by the Filipinos, who finished fourth overall in the 56-country tournament, behind champion Korea, Spain and Turkey.

The other Filipino winners were finweight Roberto Cruz, silver medalist; featherweight Kalindi Tamayo, silver medalist; and bantamweight Jasmin Strachan, bronze medalist.

Tamayo hurdled her Indonesian and Croatian opponents in her first two bouts, but fell 1-5 to Turkey's Zeynet Murat in the finals.

Williams signs $40.8M

TORONTO—Forward Jerome Williams and the Toronto Raptors agreed Thursday to a seven-year deal worth $40.8 million.

The agreement, which cannot become official until Wednesday - the first day free agents are allowed to sign contracts - comes a day after the Raptors reached a deal with center Antonio Davis worth more than $60 million.

"They made a terrific presentation to Jerome. They really hit all the right buttons," agent Lon Babby said. "They made a pre-emptive strike in a very impressive and effective way so that Jerome was able to move very quickly toward a decision."

Babby said Williams wanted to sign quickly, hoping that would convince Davis and guard Alvin Williams to stay.

"Jerome really had committed as early as last week, but his decision was very much predicated on his belief that the Raptors would not only be successful in re-signing Antonio, but hopefully Alvin Williams as well," Babby said.

According to published reports, Alvin Williams is close to reaching agreement on a five-year deal with Toronto. A Raptors spokesman has refused to comment on the report.

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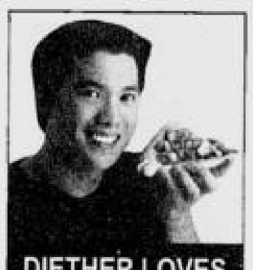
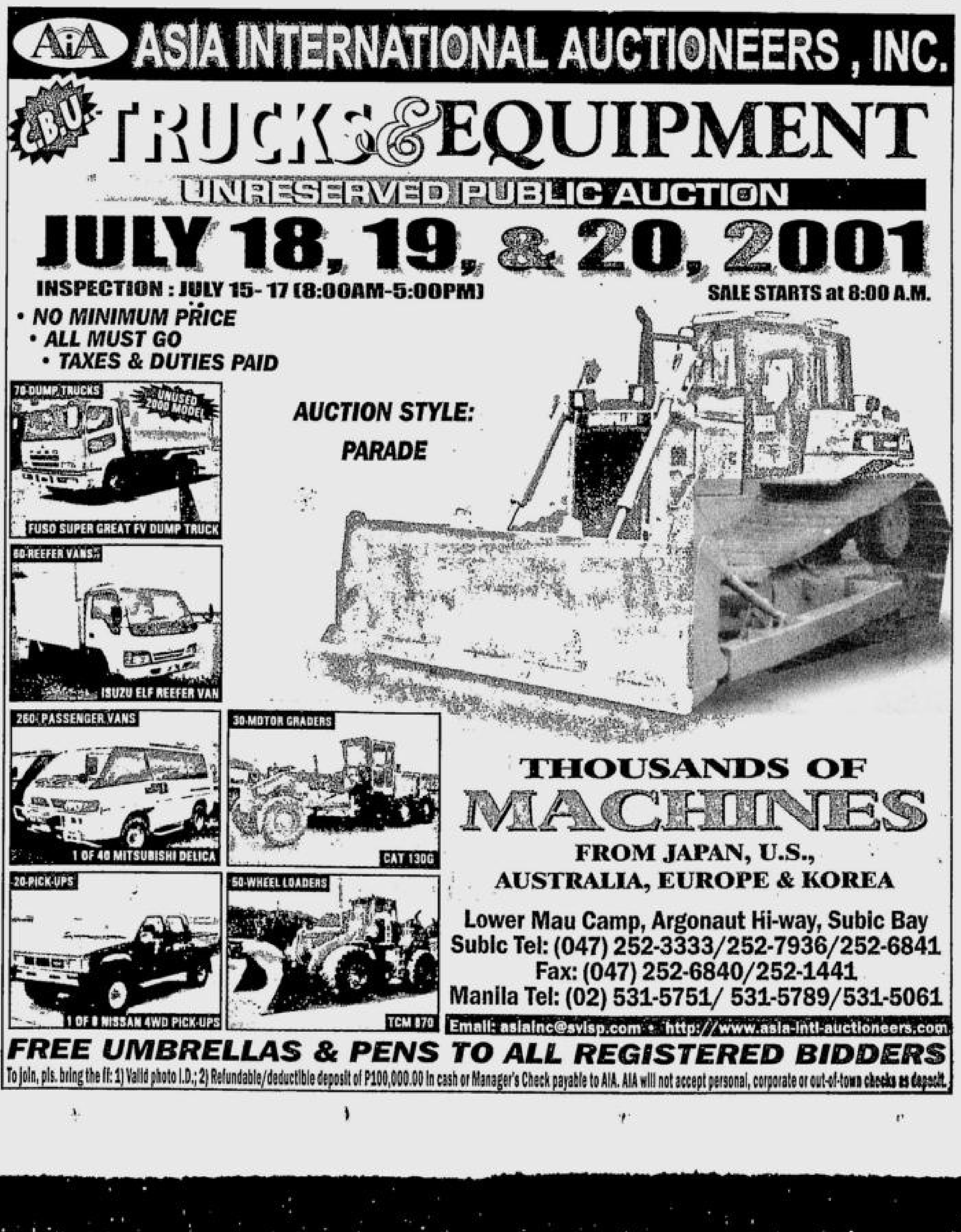


DIETHER LOVES THE NEW CHEESY CRUST PIZZA!

Love Cheese? Try the new Cheesy Crust from Pizza Hut. Its outer crust is stuffed with mozzarella & then topped with imported cheddar cheese that's baked to a crisp. You can choose Cheesy Crust with any of your favorite toppings. "For all you cheese-lovers out there, it's the kind of pizza you'll truly crave for!" says Diether Ocampo. Rush to your favorite Pizza Hut or call 911-11-11.



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Ari defense in Japan July 15

OPBF super featherweight champion Tiger Ari of Biñan, Laguna, makes his 6th title defense in Okayama, Japan, against Kazunori Fujita in a rematch on July 15. Ari has successfully defended his title against Fujita on Feb. 20, 2000, winning by decision. Ari will receive $20,000, according to International matchmaker Jun Sarreal who arranged the fight with matchmaker Shuki Murayama of Japan.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BILLIARDS: 2001 WPBA Classic Tour - Semifinal #1 at 3 p.m. on ESPN

World Professional Pool Championships 2001, Day 1, 1st Session at 9 p.m., 2nd Session tomorrow at 9 a.m. on ESPN

GOLF: This is the PGA Tour at 10:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA Greater Milwaukee Open, Second Round at 1 p.m. on Star Sports

LPGA Michelob Light Classic, First Round at 5 p.m. on ESPN

Blades slash Marlins; Yusingco fined, banned

MBA FIRST PHASE

Standings	W	L
LBC Batangas	5	2
Negros	8	3
Cebuana Lhuillier	7	3
Andok's San Juan	7	3
FedEx Laguna	3	5
Nueva Ecija	2	5
Davao	2	7
Socsargen	2	8

Games Tomorrow
USLS Gym (Bacolod City)
3:00 p.m.—N. Ecija vs Negros
La Salle Lipa Gym
5:30 p.m.—Cebu vs Batangas

BY ROY LUARCA

THE LBC Batangas Blades' offensive machinery functioned smoothly yesterday as they subdued the Socsargen Marlins, 111-97, and took the provisional lead in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Alex Compton, the 1999 MVP, topscored with 27 points, even as 2000 MVP Romel Adducul and perennial All-Star Eddie Laure chipped in 19 points each for the Blades, who raised their win-loss card to 5-2.

That gave the Blades the top spot in the eight team field. But whether they'll remain there hinges on the Negros-FedEx Laguna tussle, which was going on at presstime.

Meanwhile, Cebuana Lhuillier team manager Glenn Yusingco was slapped a whopping P35,000 fine for punching technical committee head Bert Ortiz, who was also fined P20,000, after the Gems bowed to the Andok's San Juan Knights last June 29.

MBA deputy commissioner Butch Antonio also banned Yusingco from sitting at the Gems bench up to the end of the elimination round, while Ortiz won't appear at the official's table for the duration of the First Phase.

Compton, who also issued six assists and had three steals, Adducul and Laure were also responsible for giving the Blades their first sizeable lead at 71-59, built up through a nine-point run.

In the other game, the Negros Slashers beat the FedEx Laguna Lakers, 113-109, by employing the power of the Blitz Three through Ruben dela Rosa.

Dela Rosa, taking less than four seconds to score on three opportunities, poured in 10 points in the last 3 minutes and 16 seconds as the Slashers battled back from as many as 10 points down to repeat over the Lakers.

The victory allowed Negros to retake the lead in the First Phase.

The Lakers dropped to 3-5 as they failed to avenge their 103-93 defeat to the Slashers in their first encounter.

The scores:

LBC BATANGAS 111—Compton 27, Adducul 19, Laure 19, Sanders 13, Rivera 10, Corbin 5, Espinosa 4, Martin 4, Serrano 4, Cuevas 4, Mapalad 2.

SOCSARGEN 97—Alvarez 31, Bade 21, Reyes 14, Salvador 9, Co 8, Echavez 5, Teng 4, Santos 1, Mañalac 1, Flores 1, Natividad 0, De Jesus 0.

Quarters: 28-29, 55-53, 87-75, 111-97.

Merciless SMB routs Pop

GAMES TOMORROW
(Ynares Center)
4:15 p.m.—Mobiline vs Alaska
6:30 p.m.—Ginebrs vs Shell

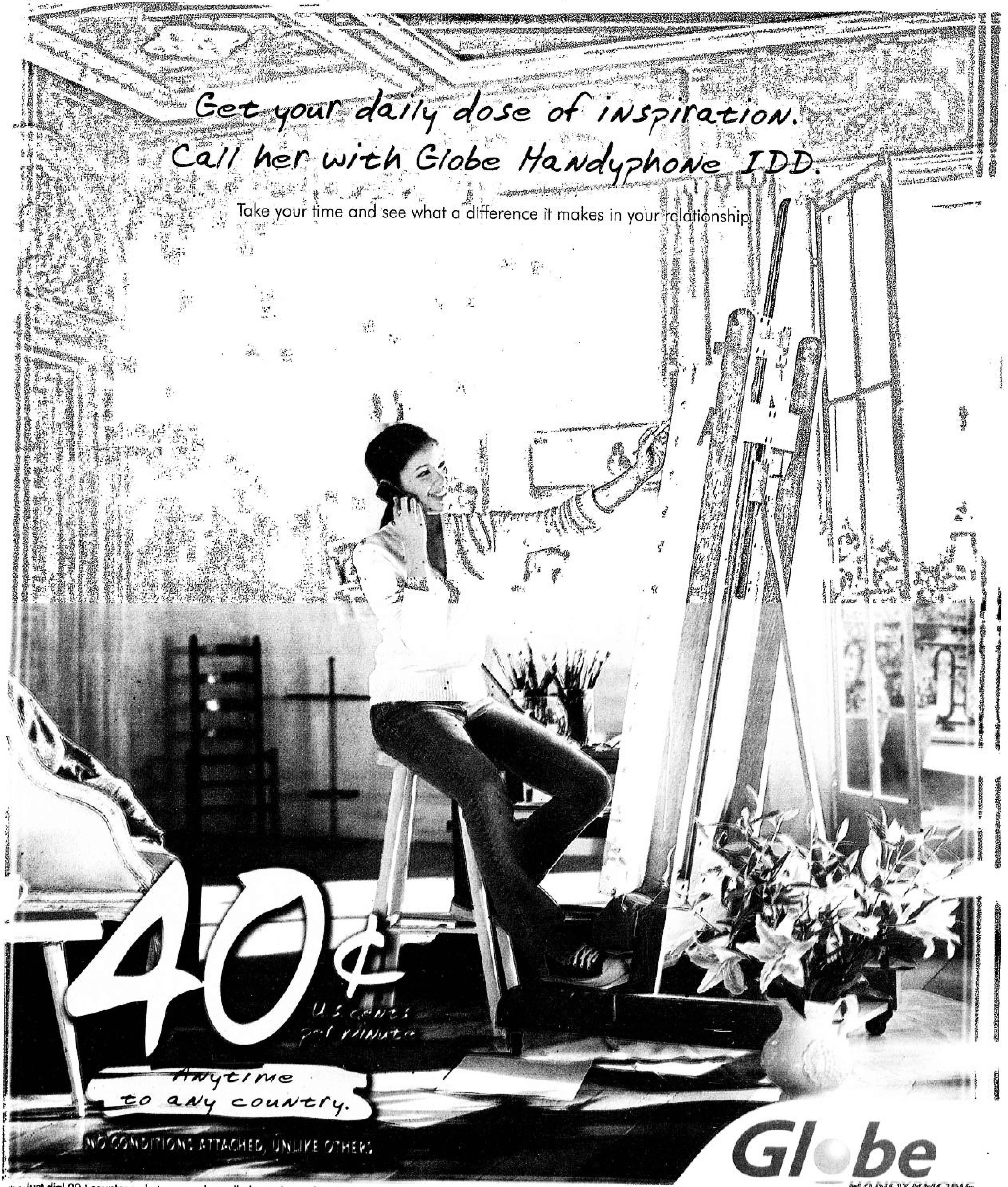
BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

IF it were a baseball game, mercy rule would have been put into effect. Or if it were a boxing bout, it would have ended by knockout.

But since it was a basketball game, fans at Philsports had to endure the sight of San Miguel Beer inflicting killer blows to hapless Pop Cola for 48 minutes last night en route to a 107-76 massacre in the PBA Commissioner's Cup.

San Miguel thus assured itself of the No. 1 spot in the quarterfinals aside from stringing up three straight victories, while jeopardizing Pop Cola's chances for the next round.

In the second game, Red Bull repulsed Tanduay, 104-98 to remain half a game behind leader San Miguel with its sixth win in eight outings.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■ Trader yields P2M shabu A22
■ Graft raps vs Vicencio over P122-M town hall A22

METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Pistol-packing priest forgives snatchers, but wants them jailed A23

4 nabbed for selling fake $15M time deposit certificates to Asian banks

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation on Thursday arrested three men and a woman accused of selling counterfeit certificates of time deposits (CTDs) to several banks abroad.

The arrests came two days after the NBI collared 14 foreigners and a Filipino for high-tech stock fraud in Makati City.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday identified the four suspects as Wenzel Stephen L. Ligot, 43, a school owner, of C. Tomas Mapua Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila; Erick Luis D. De Guzman, 37, engineer, of Surigao Street, West Avenue, Quezon City; Ricardo S. Tongco, 68, businessman, of Cattleya Street, Valle Verde 2, Pasig City; and Lourdez E. Gomez, 57, businesswoman, of Lagmay Street, San Juan.

A fifth man, Lino Pantaleon R. Zara Jr., former president of Citizens Bank in San Pascual, Batangas, is still at large.

All four have been charged before the Makati City Prosecutors Office with violation of Article 168 of the Revised Penal Code, also known as the law on illegal possession and use of falsified treasury bank notes and other instruments of credit.

Lawyer Elfren Meneses, chief of the NBI Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD), yesterday told reporters that a Malaysian bank, Maybank-Klang, lodged a complaint against the suspects.

Meneses said the Malaysian bank e-mailed the Philippine Deposits Insurance Corporation (PDIC) seeking to verify the status of the Citizens Bank, a rural bank in San Pascual in Batangas.

Specifically, Maybank-Klang wanted to know all about the US$15 million (about P750 million) in CTDs allegedly belonging to Ligot which the suspects were selling, Meneses said.

Meneses later learned the PDIC took over control of the bank since last year.

"Further investigation also re-

4 NABBED/ A22

Recto sidewalk book vendors vs big stores

By Jerome Aning

AFTER 30 years of selling second hand books and a 1993 Manila Court decision that allowed them to continue their trade on C. M. Recto Avenue in Manila's university belt as long as they paid fees and had necessary permits from City Hall, the book sellers on Thursday found themselves without their stalls.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza ordered the stalls demolished in what he called a bid to reclaim the city's sidewalks from illegal structures the vendors used.

But yesterday, 33 of the book vendors, represented by lawyer Lysandro Sanchez Sr., accused big bookstores of lobbying the mayor's office to wipe out the second hand bookstalls that are giving the bookstores stiff competition.

Policemen, the city's Hawker Permit Services and City Hall personnel from the public services, market administration and city engineers offices led the demolition of the stalls found to be encroaching on the sidewalk.

The vendors' lawyer Sanchez said that HPS chief Adlil Khan had notified the hawkers of their impending eviction through two letters dated June 27 and July 6.

But a July 1, 1993 decision by the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 36 judge Wilfredo Reyes, Sanchez said, had declared that the vendors were "legally entitled" to sell along the C.M. Recto sidewalk.

RECTO SIDEWALK/ A22

20 more injured in latest Malabon slum demolition

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWENTY more Malabon residents, including a pregnant woman, were reportedly injured when authorities resumed the demolition of their shanties yesterday morning.

Lucita Bustillos, her daughter Cristy, Ruby Alarde, Raffy Rodriguez and a pregnant Mylene Boro were among those wounded in the clash. They were taken to the Pagamutang Bayan ng Malabon, residents said.

Witnesses said around 30 heavily armed policemen and members of a private demolition team stormed the relocation site of the People's Power

20 MORE INJURED/ A22

Wazzzzup?

8th day CAFE ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR	SIDE A (JULY 14, SATURDAY)	FREESTYLE JULY 17/634.7696
AUDIOTORIUM 23 WEST AVE., QUEZON CITY	RUBBERBAND	374.2330/373.5574
BUMA 9595 KAMAGONG ST. MAKATI	FIGURE 8 K.O. JONES	MULATTO JULY 20/896.1939
Cowboy Grill ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill ARQUIZA ST. MANILA	J BROTHERS MR. ROXY/HIMIG	P 250 CONSUMABLE 9-3 AM/525.1474
Cowboy Grill REMEDIOS ST. MALATE	HOMOSAPIENS STAY TUNED	P 250 CONSUMABLE 9-2 AM/521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	KOOL JACKS MIX-UP/FREEZE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
HOLODECK	B I G	FREE ENTRANCE 726.8028/727.5326
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	GENEVA CRUZ D'BOSS/GROOVE	P 250 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
LITE n'LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST. Q.C.	MERMAIDS L . O . C	P 150 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
music WAREHOUSE IN FRONT OF CENTRAL MARKET	SESSION ROAD SUGAR FREE	SPECIAL GUESTS 735.1280/735.1405
PADIS MINDAVE MINDANAO AVE. COR. CONG'L, Q.C.	POP CYCLES MYMP/MARICRIS	SUPERMODEL CONTEST! 453.0080/(0917)813.5916
PADIS MINDAVE MINDANAO AVE. COR. CONG'L, Q.C.	SOUTHBORDER ANNIV. CONCERT/JULY 15	435.0080/925.3117 414.4930-34/920.4667
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 890.4735
Tropical FOREST Cafe · Grill · Restaurant	PART - E	PICA-PICA PLATTER P200/MON-FRI
OTHER PLACES		
Jer's REAL CALAMBA, LAGUNA	CROSSTOWN	P 50 ENTRANCE ☎ (0917)378.7303
Partyline SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	BAND OF WORK	THE DAWN JULY 28, SATURDAY

SATURDAY, JULY 14 919-8983

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SOFT PACK.
LUCKIES
AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL
LUCKY STRIKE
IT'S TOASTED
FILTERS
KING SIZE
LUCKY STRIKE
NOW ENJOY
THE NEW IMPORTED
LUCKY STRIKE
SOFT PACK AT A
GREAT NEW PRICE.
P20.75
Suggested Retail Price
I CHOOSE
AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

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Suspect in slay of 3 falls

By Alcuin Papa

THE SOUTHERN Police District has considered solved the robbery of the Jeepney Shopping Center in Pasay City and the brutal slaying of three of its employees last month with the arrest of the prime suspect on Thursday.

The suspect was identified as Antonio Uy, 39, a former employee of the Jeepney Shopping Center, a native of Cotabato and a resident of Sandejas Street in Pasay City.

According to police, Uy said he and his brother-in-law Ricky Ladiana, 20, were responsible for robbing the Jeepney Shopping Center along Taft Avenue on June 27 and for the killing of employee Delfin Binahan, janitor Felix Aranes and security guard Gilbert Esmaquilan.

Uy was arrested early Thursday morning in Palawig, Salasa, Zambales by a team led by Pasay City chief of police Chief Insp. Alejandro Gutierrez and the National Capital Region Police Office's Regional Mobile Group led by Supt. Roger Navarro.

Upon interrogation after his arrest, Uy admitted his participation in the crime and identified his cohort, Ladiana, 20.

Uy said he only wanted to steal from the shopping center but Ladiana had wanted to kill the victims, too. "I tried to stop him," Uy told reporters.

He said they were not under the influence of drugs or alcohol when they committed the crime.

The owner of the shopping center, Jerry Lim Pee, told police some of his employees led by Binahan had initiated a petition to fire Uy, who they said had been acting unruly.

Uy said that after they committed the crime, they commandeered a Honda Civic car and drove to Quezon City. However, they abandoned the car when it got stuck in a ditch.

They later went to Marikina to hide in the house of Uy's girlfriend. After three days, Uy went to Zambales.

"We are still looking for Ladiana but Uy might be lying in implicating him," said Gutierrez.

He said police were still interrogating Uy.

"The case is now considered closed with the arrest of the prime suspect and I congratulate the units involved," SPD Director Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez said.

Police are preparing to file charges of robbery and murder against Uy.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 14, 2001
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Gen 49:29-32; 50:15-26*
Gospel: *Mt 10:24-33*

Jesus said to his apostles, "A student is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master. A student should be glad to become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If the head of the family has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of the family! So, do not be afraid of them.

There is nothing covered that will not be uncovered, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I am telling you in the dark, you must speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops.

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but have no power to kill the soul. Rather be afraid of him who can destroy both body and soul in hell. For only a few cents you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. So do not be afraid: you are worth much more than many sparrows.

Whoever acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before Father in heaven. Whoever rejects me before others I will reject before my Father in heaven."

Commentary:

The instructions in today's reading were originally meant to encourage those early Christians who because of fear ran the risk of losing perspective in life and with it their sense of mission. Jesus opens up the real perspective in life in which every person is seen to be a beloved child of the heavenly Father. On the other hand he also reminds people that their mission has to go on, and to consider the serious consequences of unfaithfulness to this mission. The reading has strong eschatological overtones in order to show the real dimensions of the mission of each member of the Christian community.

Father we easily lose perspective in life when unexpected things happen. Teach us to be good disciples of Jesus and to learn from him again every day.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Purpose of preliminary investigation—The purpose of preliminary investigation is primarily to determine whether there is a reasonable ground to believe that an offense has been committed and the accused is probably guilty thereof, so that a warrant of arrest may be issued and the accused held for trial. It is not within the purview of the preliminary investigation to give the judge the right to amend, *moto propio* the designation of the crime. When the crime comes within the jurisdiction, he shall try the case, and only after trial may he convict for a lesser offense. In a case coming within the original jurisdiction of the Court of First Instance (now the Regional Trial Court), he should elevate the case as it is, even if in his opinion, the crime is less than that charged. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Cabarloc v. Cabusora, A.M. No. MTJ-00-1256, December 15, 2000].

Digest by R.B. Vera

Trader yields ₱2M shabu

By Michael Lim Ubac

BUSINESSMAN Sonny O. Mangondatu fell into the hands of the National Bureau of Investigation last week for alleged possession of 1.5 kilos of shabu worth P2 million.

NBI deputy director Samuel Ong said Mangondatu, 45, of Baloy Street, Barangay Santol, Sta. Mesa, Manila, admitted to authorities that he supplied shabu to traffickers from Pangasinan, Taguig and Cotabato.

Mangondatu refused to comment on the drug charges against him when he was presented to reporters yesterday.

Ruel Lasala, regional director of the NBI's Dangerous Drugs Division, said he received a tip about Mangondatu's illegal activities sometime before.

Surveillance revealed that the suspect used his residence on Baloy Street as his base of operations, Lasala said.

Satisfied with what he had on the suspect, Lasala applied for a search warrant from Quezon City judge Diosdado Peralta.

Lasala then ordered his men to arrest Mangondatu on July 6.

"Mangondatu was caught in possession of 1.5 kilos of shabu and drug paraphernalia," Lasala said.

The NBI also seized Mangondatu's Mazda vehicle (UGC 750), which was allegedly used to transport shabu.

In Quiapo, Manila, an NBI Special Task Force under lawyer Marianito Panganiban arrested another drug pusher identified as Maritess A. Pangcoga.

Pangcoga was caught in the act of selling 104.6 grams of shabu to an NBI posing as a buyer at a Quiapo fastfood outlet.

The NBI yesterday charged the suspect with violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act before the Manila City Prosecutor's Office.

SUSPECT Mangondatu admitted he supplied shabu to the provinces, according to NBI agents.
JESS YUSON

Graft raps vs Vicencio over ₱122M town hall

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE OMBUDSMAN has slapped graft charges against Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio and four other officials before the Sandiganbayan for the allegedly spurious deal for the construction of the P122-million town hall.

The other respondents were Councilor Lauro Borja, Ma. Lida Sarmiento, Pio Dadula, Virdeo Cruz and Ernesto Pabustan, all members of the Malabon Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC).

Ombudsman prosecutor Rosano Oliva recommended a P30,000 bail for each respondent.

The Ombudsman decided to file graft charges against the local officials after finding probable cause in the case filed by opposition Councilors Edilberto Torres, Chiqui Roque and Payapa Ona.

The PBAC headed by Vicencio allegedly granted the P122-million deal for the construction of a new town hall to a "disqualified" contractor.

The local government allegedly pre-qualified the joint venture of Sergcon Development Corp. and Principal Management Group Inc.

The deal went to Serg Construction and PMGI.

The complainants claimed that Sergcon and Serg are two entirely different companies.

It also turned out that the joint venture that won the multimillion-peso deal did not have a special license from the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board, according to initial investigation by the Ombudsman.

The project also allegedly did not have the approval of Malacañang. The law requires that local government projects worth more than P50 million should be approved by the Office of the President.

Despite howls of protest from the opposition councilors, Vicencio proceeded with the project.

The new town hall was supposed to have been completed early this year, but the project remains in the early stage of construction.

Navotas man robbed

A 65-YEAR-OLD businessman lost at least P600,000 to robbers who broke into his warehouse in Navotas on Thursday.

Police identified the victim as Osias Leongson, of Dahlia Street, Merville Subdivision, Barangay Tanza, Navotas.

The robbers broke into Leongson's warehouse about 8 a.m. and took his belongings and electrical equipment worth at least P600,000.

The suspects entered the warehouse by breaking the padlock and sawing off window grills, said investigator PO3 Noel Banares.

Leongson discovered the robbery when he went to the warehouse to feed his dogs, police said. *Christian V. Esguerra*

An open letter to Ping Lacson

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

BUT things began to sour between us when I sided with Roberto Lastimoso, then the PNP chief, in your quarrel with him. I sensed that you were in such a hurry to get the position from Lastimoso that you and your men had to make up stories about him. You should have understood that I am an adopted member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1967 of which Lastimoso was the president. It was Bobby Lastimoso who sponsored my membership at PMA Class '67.

After you succeeded in having Lastimoso ousted, you didn't stop harassing him. Lastimoso complained to me that when you learned that President Erap was going to appoint him assistant secretary at the Department of Energy, you went to Erap and told Erap to scrap the appointment, which he did. I began to realize that you held Erap by the neck. I never paused to ask myself why, though. I also realized the depth of your ruthlessness: You kick a guy who's already down.

While you were the PNP chief you launched a drive to collect donations from the private sector in order to buy sophisticated police communications equipment and transportation. I supported you in that fund campaign. Without you knowing about it, I wrote a check for your PNP Foundation. You can verify that.

Even when I didn't like the way you treated Bobby Lastimoso, I still supported you as PNP chief and concurrent chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force. I thought that you were honest and incorruptible and that you needed all the moral support that you could get. Wasn't I the first to suggest that if you ran for president in 2004 you might win?

But I now realize that all those stories about your honesty and incorruptibility were media hype. You, too, are as corrupt as, if not even more corrupt than, other PNP officers. You are an expert at hiding your defects just as you are good in hiding the blemishes in your face with a facial cream.

Your past misdeeds are now coming out in the open. I now recall seeing you wearing what looked like a very expensive watch when you were still a captain at MISG. I didn't want to offend you so I didn't ask you about the watch. Years later, I learned that the watch you were wearing at the time was a Patek Philippe, one of the world's most expensive watches. I was told by some of your former subordinates that you got the watch from the wrist of a kidnapper that your men had executed.

To confirm that story, I asked PNP officers who neither hate nor love you and who are just objective about the watch. They told me the same story—the watch belonged to a dead kidnapper. He was a Hong Kong national who was a member of a kidnap syndicate victimizing local Chinese.

You didn't have the moral authority to preach honesty to your men at the PNP and PAOCTF. Looting the dead is a serious moral, as well as legal, offense, Ping.

I tried to overlook your faults that I mentioned above, Ping, because I thought they were minor compared to the faults of your fellow cops.

Until the abduction and murder of publicist Bubby Dacer. Since your men at PAOCTF committed the dastardly crime, I strongly believe—having known you as I do from way back—that you masterminded it. I also believe that you had something to do with the disappearance of Edgar Bentain.

You have become a monster, Ping, and people should know. You have become callous after seeing human lives wasted in the name of justice, your brand of justice. Your callousness toward killing criminals has extended over to killing even innocent people. For how else can you justify the "salvaging" of Bubby Dacer, his driver Emmanuel Corbito, and Bentain?

As I write this letter I feel a lump in my throat. In the back of my mind is the realization that someday there would be an attempt on my life. I have prepared for that time, Ping.

I remember the story circulating among your men at the MISG about a woman named Alice.

Alice's husband was arrested in 1974 and detained at the MISG headquarters for various offenses.

You were introduced to Alice, a very pretty woman, when she visited her husband at the MISG. The talks were that you and Alice had an affair while the husband was in detention.

Eventually, the husband was released from detention. But several months after he was released, he was run over by a truck. Somebody deliberately ran him over, I was told.

And where's Alice now? I understand she's now Mrs. Panfilo Lacson, Ping.

Your (former?) friend,

Mon

(The official letter is signed by Ramon Tulfo—Ed.)

4 nabbed . . .

(From page A22)

vealed the bank had no dollar time deposits account owned by Ligot," Meneses said.

Another bank, the Asian Muslim International, Co. Ltd. based in Bangkok, Thailand, also asked the PDIC to confirm Ligot's CTDs supposedly worth US$15 million.

The bank began its inquiry when the same syndicate approached Asian Muslim International hoping to sell the CTDs, Meneses said.

The suspects even had the gall to legitimize their claim with the PDIC. To lend a semblance of credence to their claim, the suspects presented five CTDs to the PDIC, all belonging to Ligot.

But all turned out to be fake, Meneses said.

From May to July this year, suspects Gomez and Tongco prompted the PDIC to confirm the status of the CTDs.

But the PDIC referred the case to the NBI. On July 12, the four suspects again went to the PDIC office in Makati to demand the issuance of a confirmation of Ligot's deposits.

"In the process, the group presented copies of the supposed original certificates which, when examined, turned out to be counterfeit," Meneses said.

NBI agents immediately took the suspects into custody.

Recto sidewalk book vendors . . .

(From page A21)

Khan said in his letters that he is revoking the vendors concession permits "in the interest of public service and for the benefit of the pedestrian," especially the students."

The July 6 letter gave the vendors five days to clear the sidewalk.

Sanchez said he wrote back and informed Khan of the 1993 court decision, but the demolition still took place on Thursday.

"We appealed to their sense of justice and fairness in recalling the letters but they went on with the operation without giving us due process," Sanchez said.

He said that some of his clients had already paid concession fees to City Hall up to December 2001.

Judge Reyes had ruled that the vendors were legally entitled to sell in their stalls as long as they paid "line and grade" fees and secured building and electrical permits,'which City Ordinance No. 7707 required.

In 1997, four years after the ruling, the booksellers' stalls were again the subject of a demolition by Manila policemen, who were later on charged with graft after the Ombudsman for the Military, Purificacion Baring-Tuvera, recognized Reyes' decision.

For his part, Mayor Atienza said, "we will allow vending in the streets under our organized vending program," Atienza said. "All they have to do is to coordinate with the Hawkers Management Committee headed by Adil Khan. If they cooperate and work with the government, we will even make available a loan facility to them (for) additional capital for their livelihood."

He appealed to vendors occupyin illegal structures on sidewalks to voluntarily dismantle these structures and relocate to side streets.

Atienza said the drive to clear Manila' sidewalks would also curb illegal activities such as cell phone snatching, selling o pirated movie compact disks, and manufacturing of fake diplomas.

He said his campaign to "liberate th sidewalks" would also be extended t illegally erected food stands, motor an junk shops, residential extensions, garages and even barangay halls.

He warned that future encroacher caught by the police would be jailed and their goods confiscated.

But Sanchez said they would agai go to court to question the demolition i Atienza refused to listen to their plea.

20 more injured in latest . . .

(From page A21)

Association near Letre Road in Barangay Tonsuya about 11 a.m.

The residents—who had been living in the area since 1986—did not offer much of a resistance, said Rosalinda Bustillos, 26, PPA president. Still, members of the demolition team allegedly clubbed, punched, and kicked some of the residents, including women and children.

Sheriff Ruben Tan of the demolition team refused to comment on the allegation.

By the time the authorities were through, all 174 families of the community have been rendered homeless, Bustillos said.

"We are not pieces of trash which you can just throw anywhere," Bustillos said in Filipino. "We are human beings."

Residents yesterday camped out in front of the Malabon City Hall to pressure Mayor Amado Vicencio to look into their plight.

Bustillos said she and her neighbors have long been seeking a dialogue with Vicencio to discuss the issue. But each time, they were allegedly told the mayor was too busy to attend to them.

Residents said yesterday's demolition came as a surprise since they were allegedly assured that their shantie would be spared.

Ely Ramada, 24, a PPA officer, said local officials told residents it was another squatter colony near Rizal Avenu that was supposed to be demolished not the PPA, which he claimed was government relocation site.

"This is already a relocation site, s why drive us away?" Ramada said i Filipino.

The demolition began on Thursday Malabon residents were up in arms and a clash ensued where about 60 persons including 10 policemen, were reported injured.

Man falls to death from 11th story

A MERCHANT died when he accidentally fell from the 11th floor of a 13-story condominium building in Makati City Thursday afternoon, police reported yesterday.

Police said Arturo Levite, 51, and a resident of 2462 Mercurio St., San Andres, Manila, died of a broken skull. The victim hit the concrete driveway of the condominium complex head first, police said.

Investigators said the incident happened at 3:35 p.m. while Levite was repairing the front sliding glass window of unit No. 1103 at Cityland Tower 9 along De la Rosa Street in Barangay Pio Del Pilar.

PO2 Juvenal Barbossa of the Makati City police said Levite was visiting his friend, Eden Velasco, 65, when he learned that the window of her unit was broken and he volunteered to fix it.

Barbossa said Levite stepped out of the unit through the window and stood on a narrow ledge to fix the window but he slipped and fell.

"He was able to hold on to the ledge with four fingers before he fell," Barbossa said.

Pistol-packing priest forgives snatchers but wants them jailed

By Alcuin Papa

EVEN if he claimed to have forgiven them for the harm they had caused him, the pistol-packing priest who fought off two cell phone snatchers in Parañaque on Thursday said that in the eyes of the law, the suspects should do time for their crime.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Fr. Rico Nobleza, parish priest of the Sta. Rita de Cacia Parish in Baclaran, Parañaque, stressed that he wants the suspected cell phone snatchers to go to jail.

"Forgiveness is not a legal matter, it is a moral one," said the bespectacled 32-year-old priest. "Charity should not be forfeited in favor of justice. But I forgive them for what they did to me."

Early morning last Thursday, Nobleza hauled Manuel Samson, 42, and his Crisman (not Christian as earlier reported), 22, to a police station after they allegedly tried to snatch his Nokia 3210 in Parañaque.

He said he did this after exchanging blows with Crisman, chasing him and then finally aiming a gun at him.

The suspects never expected him to be with a gun. They also never suspected him to be a priest.

Without his robes, Nobleza looked like a freshly scrubbed Makati yuppie. His slight but muscular build is the only clue to the years of martial arts training he received.

Nobleza is a black belt in karate and wants to study aikido. He is also a practical shooter, which explains why he was packing a piece—his trusty .45 Armscor pistol—during the attempted robbery.

Presence of mind

Nobleza said he was on board a jeepney from Parañaque to his parish at about 5 a.m. on Thursday when Crisman sat beside him in front with the driver.

When the jeepney arrived on Harrison Street, Nobleza said Crisman poked a knife in his neck and told him to surrender his cell phone.

He raised his hands, Nobleza said, and turned to show Crisman the left side of his body where he kept his cell phone.

But Crisman saw Nobleza's gun as he turned and was distracted by it. Nobleza said that this was all he needed and started to grapple wildly with Crisman.

"It was my training in the martial arts and practical shooting that allowed me to concentrate and calmly try to disable the suspect," Nobleza explained.

Nobleza said both of them exchanged some blows as Crisman got down from the jeepney. On the street, Crisman's father Manuel joined him, Nobleza said.

He said he then drew his gun and fired two warning shots as the Samsons were trying to flee.

With his gun aimed at Crisman, Nobleza said that the father blocked his view of the son.

"I could not summon the will to fire my weapon. I didn't like the idea of killing someone over a mere cell phone," Nobleza said.

Seeing the gun pointed at him, Manuel surrendered himself to Nobleza. The priest also managed to make Crisman give himself up. Nobleza then brought them to the nearest police station.

Man of God

Nobleza, a native of Jovellar, Albay entered the Holy Rosary Major Seminary in Naga when he was 14. After his studies, he took a break to decide if he really wanted to be priest. He was finally ordained in 1997.

After a few other parish assignments, he became parish priest of Sta. Rita in February this year.

Nobleza said that last Thursday was the first time he was in a holdup situation. At the time of the incident, he was not wearing anything that would have indicated that he was priest.

He explained that bringing in the two suspects was more of "self-defense" rather than taking the law into his hands. "I think it's common sense that if someone collars a crime suspect, you bring him immediately to the police."

But the priest rued the fact that no one helped him in fighting off the two suspects.

He also denied earlier reports that he refused to forgive the suspects when they begged him during a confrontation at the police station. He also denied saying that the suspects should rot in jail.

"Actually, the father said he was not involved in the crime. He was only implicated. I believe that everyone can change."

Man of peace

But Nobleza sees a contradiction in being a priest and carrying a gun.

"People might say that we (priests) are men of peace. But this is the reality of the world we live in. It (bringing a gun) is a product of who I am and the situations I am in," he said.

But he stressed that being a practical shooter allows him to bring a gun and that he has all the necessary permits.

"It's my sport and that (gun) is for sports purposes," Nobleza said.

He said that some priests like military chaplains carry guns.

Nobleza also said that he abides by the saying that "it is better to have a gun and not need it than not have one but need it."

His training as a practical shooter, he said, has ingrained in him responsible use of his firearm.

But Nobleza said that people should see him more as a priest rather than a crime buster.

"After all, being a priest is my real vocation."

ABU ALERT

ROGER MARGALLO

Photographs of Abu Sayyaf leaders are posted in the departure area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to guide immigration agents.

Shoe box sets off Naia bomb scare

By TJ Burgonio

AN UNATTENDED plastic bag yesterday morning caused a bomb scare among airport personnel, departing passengers and their relatives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

But the bag turned out to contain only an empty shoebox, said airport authorities.

Security guard Rodel Alojado said he saw two women leave the bag at the passenger's waiting area outside the Naia terminal 1-arrival area while he was on his morning rounds about 10:05 a.m. yesterday.

Fearing that the bag could contain explosives, Alojado said he immediately radioed the Aviation Security Group (ASG) for a team of bomb experts.

A group of alarmed security men then cleared the area of passengers waiting for their flights, and of relatives waiting to see off the passengers, said airport personnel.

Tension escalated when the bomb experts failed to respond immediately. But at 11 p.m., an ASG personnel arrived with a K-9 sniffing dog in tow.

The highly trained dog only went around the bag after sniffing it, an indication that the dog did not detect any bomb.

Members of the ammunition and ordnance division then went through the bag and found it contained only an empty green shoebox.

An ASG member explained that they were late in responding because they had to fix their mobile car, which was having mechanical trouble.

Airport personnel said that it's standard operating procedures to report unattended baggage for to airport authorities for security reasons.

On Dec. 30, an explosion ripped the cargo terminal lying between Naia 1 and 2, injuring several persons.

The blast was one of at least five explosions that rocked different places in Metro Manila and left scores of people dead or injured.

A few months ago, airport officials bared a plot by international terrorists to blow up vital installations in the country, including the airport.

Pedicab driver shot dead by buddy

A PEDICAB driver was shot dead during an argument with his drinking buddy in Sta. Mesa, Manila before dawn yesterday.

Zaldy Mendros, 32, a resident of 1093 Pat Antonio St., Sta. Mesa, was shot in the abdomen. He was declared dead on arrival at the Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, also in Sta. Mesa.

SPO2 Benito Cabatbat of the Western Police District homicide section identified the suspect only as Junior Asin, who is said to be between 30 and 35 years old and about 5-foot-5.

Police said Junior Asin and Mendros had a drinking bout in an alley near the latter's house when, at 12:30 a.m., they suddenly burst into a loud argument.

Neighbors pacified them. But Junior Asin went home, took a handgun and followed Mendros to his residence.

Mendros' wife Zeny told investigators that she earlier urged the two men to go home as it was already past midnight. She said she even jokingly told her husband he should not stay outside since it was already Friday the 13th, which according to superstition is a day of bad luck. *Jerome Aning*

Vendors butcher market boss

By Philip C. Tubeza

BERTING Flores was outnumbered, but that did not stop him from trying to fight off three men, one of whom was armed with a samurai sword, during a brawl in a Quezon City market before dawn yesterday.

But the odds were too great against Flores, 45, an overseer of the River View market and resident of Letre, Malabon. He was butchered to death before dawn yesterday, police said.

But Flores managed to injure two of his assailants before he was killed.

Police counted nine hack wounds on Flores' body.

Police also managed to arrest one of the suspects, vendor Dante O. Manaog, 43, of 1076 Interior Bonifacio Drive, Balingasa, Quezon City, at the Manila Central University Hospital in Caloocan, where he was being treated for stab wounds, said SPO1 Ramon Fernandez, of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

Flores allegedly got into an argument with the three suspects about 1:30 a.m. yesterday, police said.

Flores allegedly wanted the suspects to remove their illegal stalls at the River View market in Barangay A. Samson, Balintawak, Quezon City. Their confrontation turned into a fight and Flores, who was outnumbered, tried to escape from the suspects.

But the assailants, armed with fan knives and a samurai sword, chased Flores into the market until they cornered him at the makeshift quarters where they cut him up, Fernandez said.

Flores apparently tried to fight back and injured two of the suspects, including Manaog.

The suspects then fled after they finished off the victim. Manaog's relatives took him to the hospital after they found him bleeding from four stab wounds.

The other two suspects were nowhere to be found when the police arrived on the scene, Fernandez said.

Mother kicks man who tries to snatch 5-year-old daughter

By Philip C. Tubeza

HELL has no fury like a mother whose child is in danger.

Catherine C. Cadapan, a businesswoman, nearly lost her five-year-old daughter to a man who tried to snatch the girl while they were on board a jeep in Quezon City.

But Cadapan, 31, of 1911-D J. Abad Santos, Sta. Mesa, Manila, kicked the men out of the jeep and saved her daughter, said desk officer SPO4 Edmund Senido of the Kamuning police station.

Cadapan said the suspect was in his late '20s, tall, lanky, pale, and looked as if he was on drugs.

She said she had just fetched her daughter from school and they were waiting for a ride to Sta. Mesa at the corner of Seattle Street and Aurora Boulevard at around 1:30 p.m. Thursday when she noticed two men looking at them.

"When she flagged down an FX taxi, the two men moved as if they would also board it," SPO4 Senido said. "But when she decided not to board the taxi, the men also did not board the taxi.

"That happened twice and so she became very suspicious," Senido said. "When a jeep passed by slowly, she picked up her daughter and quickly boarded it."

But because the jeep was slowed by traffic, one of the men was also able to board the jeep, Cadapan said.

The man grabbed the daughter's arms and tried to pull her away, Senido said. "Give up or I'll stab you," Cadapan quoted the snatcher as telling her.

The men showed her a knife tucked in his shorts, she said.

But Cadapan tightened her grip on her daughter and said out loud, "Give up what?"

The driver noticed the commotion and he stepped on the brakes, Senido said. The suspect lost his balance and Cadapan took this chance to kick him.

The kick sent the man reeling out of the jeep. The driver tried to drive back and run over him but he instead stepped on the gas when he saw the second suspect running after the jeep, Senido said.

Capadan said that as the jeep drove away, the suspects simply walked away.

Capadan reported the incident to the Kamuning police station.

Starlet survives road accident

By Agnes E. Donato

MOVIE and television starlet Jackie Forster on Thursday escaped injury, but a toddler and his father were injured when the cars they were driving collided at a street corner in San Juan.

Police said Forster herself rushed one-year-and-nine-month-old John Henry Papa to the St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City after the accident. He was later transferred to the National Children's Hospital where he is now under observation.

Bystanders rushed the baby's father, Norberto, 33, of Barangay West Crame, San Juan, to the nearby Cardinal Santos Medical Center where he is undergoing treatment for minor injuries, police said.

Case investigator SPO2 Ruben Esteves said the collision occurred at the corner of Ortigas Avenue and Santolan Street in San Juan about 3 p.m. Thursday.

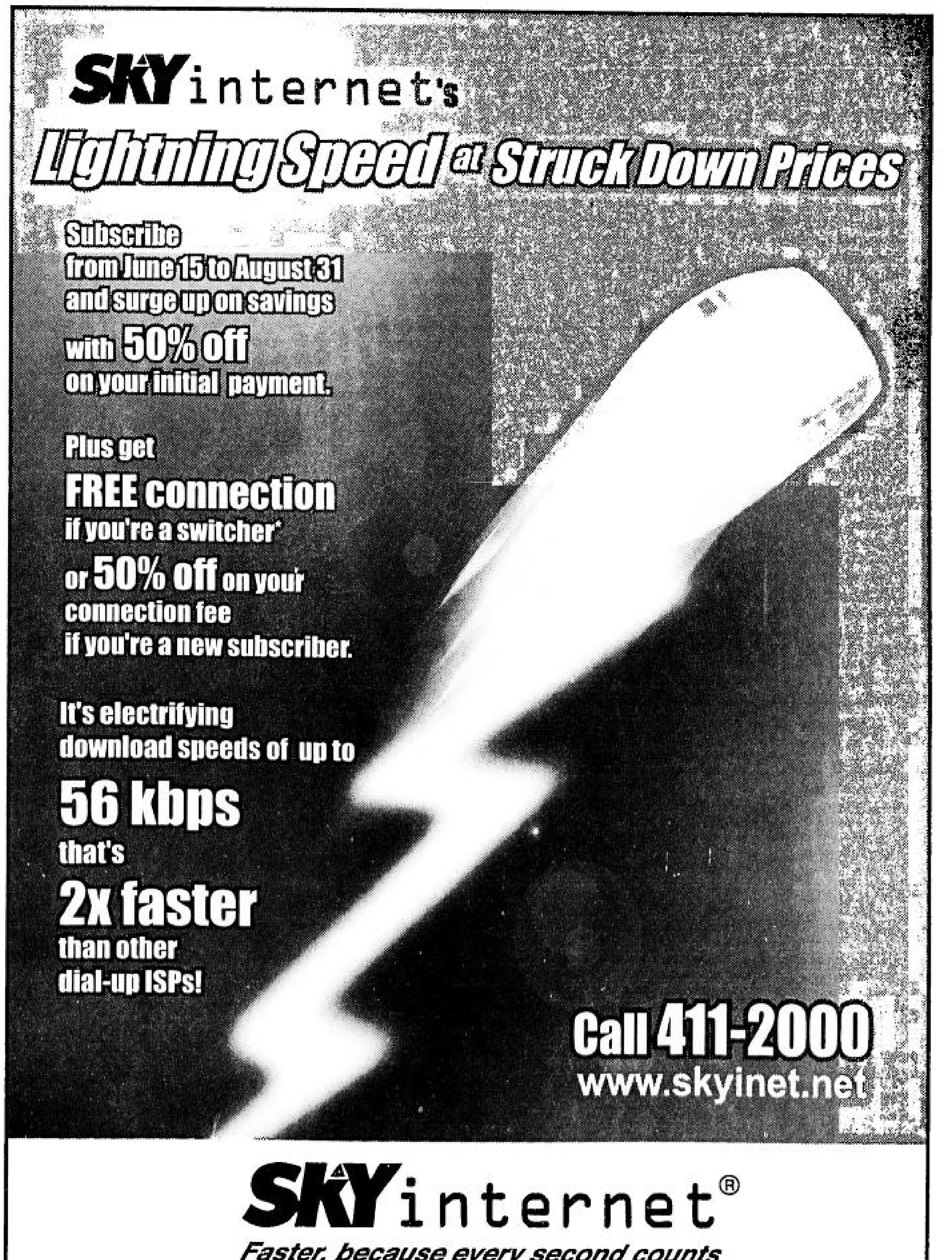
Police said Forster was behind the wheel of her green Toyota Camry (Plate No. UNZ 381) when it bumped into an Isuzu Elf (Plate NO. UCG 789), driven by the older Papa.

Both Papa and Forster were heading toward EDSA, police added.

When she saw the toddler, the unharmed Forster offered to rush him to the hospital, police said. She also asked bystanders to bring the older Papa to the nearest hospital.

Forster was said to have also promised to shoulder Papa's hospital bills.

Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan police chief, said the corner of Ortigas Avenue and Santolan Street was an accident-prone area.



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Globe execs robbed in Globe

TWO executives of a telecommunication company lost P32,000 in cash and credit card withdrawals to thieves who sneaked into their building office in Mandaluyong City.

Police identified the victims as executive vice president Annie Naval and general manager Evelyn Jimenez of Globe Telecommunication Co.

SPO1 Mariano Regner said the theft took place last Monday at 2 p.m. in the office of the two executives in the Globe building at the corner of Pioneer and Madison streets in Mandaluyong City.

Regner said the offices of the two executives were unattended as both women were attending a meeting.

Globe Telecom officials told police the thieves took cash and Citibank Masters and Visa credit cards from the women's offices.

The two executives learned about the theft hours later, but they did not report it to the police until they found out that their credit cards had been used to make cash advances amounting to P26,500.

Police cited the tight security in the Globe building and suspected an inside job. *Agnes E. Donato*

Bikers raise funds for sick kids

AT LEAST 600 motorcycles of all shapes and sizes are expected to turn out today for the biggest ever biker rally organized to raise funds for children stricken with leukemia.

Called "Bikers for Life," the whole-day affair to be held at the Goldcrest parking area between Park Square 1 and 2, Ayala Center will feature a motorcade, motorcycle competitions, games and then a live concert in the evening.

Joining the event are the different motorcycle clubs in the country such as the Freedom Riders, Mad Dog Motorcycle Club, Bikers Unlimited, Club 200, Classic Riders Group, Easy Riders, Law Enforcement Riders Association of the Philippines, Pelican Riders, Thunderbugs and the Vintage Society Motorcycle club.

Awards will be given for the best sports bike, cruiser, dual sport, standard bike, off-road bike, scooter and vintage bike. Even the most beat-up, used, abused but roadworthy bike will be awarded.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment, a non-stock, non-profit foundation established in February 1995 to provide care and treatment to 80 poor leukemia children in the Philippines.

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Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

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8	PANINDA

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4	DR. DO LITTLE 2

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Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

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2	PANINDA
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Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	PANINDA
4	SWORD FISH

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	FINAL FANTASY
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	DR. DO LITTLE 2
4 (DTS ES)	SWORD FISH

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7	TOMB RAIDERE
8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9	ATLANTIS
10	AMORSEKPO

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	DRIVEN
2	SWORD FISH
3	DR. DO LITTLE
4	ATLANTIS
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
7	FINAL FANTASY

IMUS (046) 471-8168

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2	AMORSEKO
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	FINAL FANTASY
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	DR. DO LITTLE

NOVALICHES 687-7946 to 47

1	SWORD FISH
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
4	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
5	DRIVEN
6	AMORSEKO
7	FINAL FANTASY
8	DR. DO LITTLE

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3	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	DRIVEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SWORDFISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ALONG CAME SPIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	AMORSEKO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ONSEHAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SENSUAL / SECRET GAMES
ODEON	DRIVEN
ODEON-2	ALONG CAME SPIDER
ROBEN	AMORSEKO
TANDEM-1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
TANDEM-2	PANINDA
TIMES	15 MIUTES / ATTACK FORCE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	AMORSEKO
QUEZON-1	AMORSEKO
REMAR	AMORSEKO
REMAR-2	PANINDA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DR. DO LITTLE 2
CINEMA-2	FINAL FANTASY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILA
CINEMA-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-3	AMORSEKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-6	ONSEHAN
CINEMA-7	PANINDA
CINEMA-8	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DRIVEN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-12	ALONG CAME SPIDER
CINEMA-14	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO. IKAW LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-3	DR. DO LITTLE 2
CINEMA-4	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-5	DRIVEN
CINEMA-6	SWORDFISH
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	COLLEGE GIRL
CINEMA-4	MULATA
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	TOO MUCH FLESH
CINEMA-2	VALENTINE
CINEMA-4	UHAW NA HAYOP

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Pinoy drivers 'most uneducated in the world,' says MMDA chair

BY NELSON F. FLORES

EIGHT out of 10 apprehended traffic violators are ignorant of traffic rules and regulation and proper road courtesy.

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Ruben Abalos Sr. revealed this yesterday as he appealed to Land Transportation Office chief Edgardo Abenina to review all guidelines on the issuance of driver's licenses.

Abalos said the prescribed oral and actual driving examinations should be rigidly administered. Taking a special test on road courtesy must also be required of applicants for driver's licenses, he said.

He noted that a number of LTO registrars administer oral and written driving examinations in a very perfunctory manner, thus defeating the LTO's mandate to give driver's licenses only to those who deserve to drive motorized vehicles.

He said this careless attitude among registrars is the reason why there are many uneducated and rude drivers in the streets.

"A quick glance at any street in Metro Manila will confirm the MMDA findings," Abalos said. "It will also prove that Filipino drivers are the most uneducated and discourteous in the world. It is not true that Filipinos are good drivers as commonly believed."

He said the lack of road courtesy and knowledge of traffic rules among drivers are the primary causes of traffic quarrels that often end in violence, if not the death of the driver involved or of an innocent commuter.

Abalos observed that most driving schools in the country are run of the mill. He said there are many instances when driving instructors turn out to be as ignorant of driving rules and courtesy as their students.

He said the lack of knowledge of traffic rules, road courtesy and discipline among drivers is costing the government millions of pesos. Chaos in the streets — aside from bad road conditions and the presence of traffic obstructions — is among the major causes of traffic jams in Metro Manila and other urban centers in the country, he said.

Abalos said the most common traffic violation committed by drivers is reckless driving. Most of the violators are drivers of public vehicles like buses, taxis, jeepneys and tricycles.

"Drivers who do not deserve to be given the privilege to drive a motor vehicle should stay out of the streets," he said.

Davao's 'Kadayawan' at Rustan's branches

KADAYAWAN, Davao's fruit and flower festival usually held in the last week of August, will have a sneak preview at the many branches of Rustan's Supermarkets, with SunGee's durian fruit as main attraction.

Sponsored by the Department of Tourism of Davao, headed by Sonia Garcia, the Kadayawan festival will open with typical Mindanao sound and music tomorrow, July 14, at the lobby of Rustan's Makati branch and Rockwell branch.

Other festivals in the same mood will follow in other Rustan's branches in Shangri-La Mandaluyong, Cubao, Harrison Plaza and Katipunan.

Product sampling for the buying public will also be done on Saturdays and Sundays, July 14 to Aug. 12 at the aforementioned supermarkets.

Demonstrations on how to open the durian fruit will be conducted for the curious durian enthusiasts by farm experts.

The Kadayawan Festival is supported by SunGee products and Air Philippines.

Durian will sell at P75 to a kilo from July 14 to Aug. 15 at the Manila domestic arrival area and at all selected supermarkets of Rustan's in Metro Manila.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

ALONG CAME A SPIDER - P13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	ATLANTIS - GP 11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15	DR. DOLITTLE 2 - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
FINAL FANTASY - P13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	DRIVEN - P13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	SWORD FISH - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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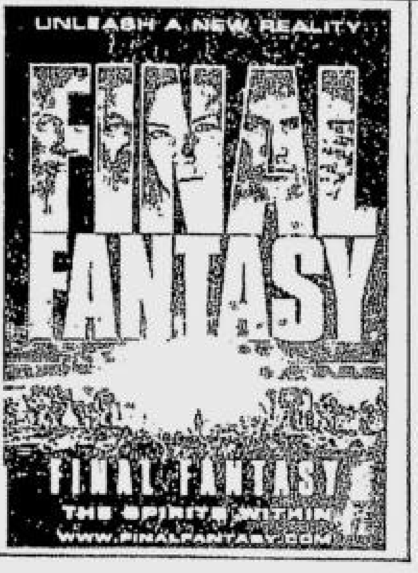

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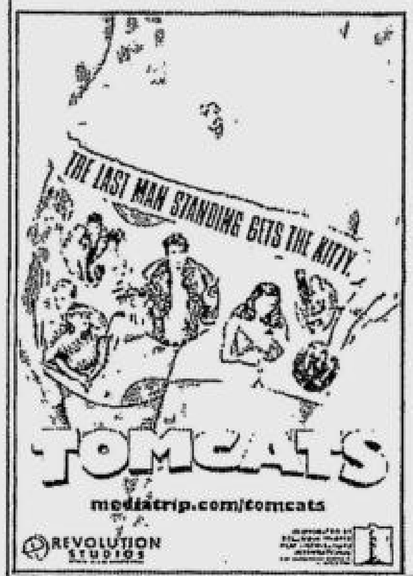

Sexy, wacky comedy opens July 18

Introducing, the "Tomcats," tropa ng free-wheeling, sex-obsessed guys, na walang inatupag kung hindi maka-iskor at magbilang ng nobya.

Nagpustahan ang barkada – sino ang huling barako na di patatali sa pag-aasawa?

Matapos ang ilang taon, sina Michael (Jerry O'Connell ng JERRY MAGUIRE) at Kyle (Jake Busey ng STARSHIP TROOPERS) na lang ang natitirang bachelor sa grupo.

Upang manalo sa pusta, ise-set up ni Mike si Kyle with super-seductive Natalie (Shannon Elizabeth ng SCARY MOVIE, AMERICAN PIE). Nguni't di niya inaasahan na maiinlab din pala siya sa sexing dalaga. Manalo man siya sa pusta, maglalaho naman ang true love niya!

Silipin din sa hilarious sexy comedy from Columbia Pictures sina Playboy playmates Julia Schultz at Amber Smith. Rated R.

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
OPENS JULY 18 (Wed.)
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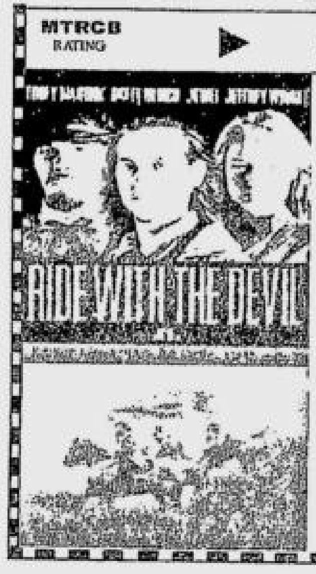

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
From the Critically Acclaimed Director of
"CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON"
RIDE WITH THE DEVIL
A Film by ANG LEE

IN A NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH,
YOU DIDN'T FIGHT FOR THE BLUE OR THE GRAY...
YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.

SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT

Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted (by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus) from Daniel Woodrell's novel Woe to Live On.

SECOND WEEK! | HYPER-ELECTRIFYING ACTION THAT'S HOTTER THAN BURSTING FLAMES !
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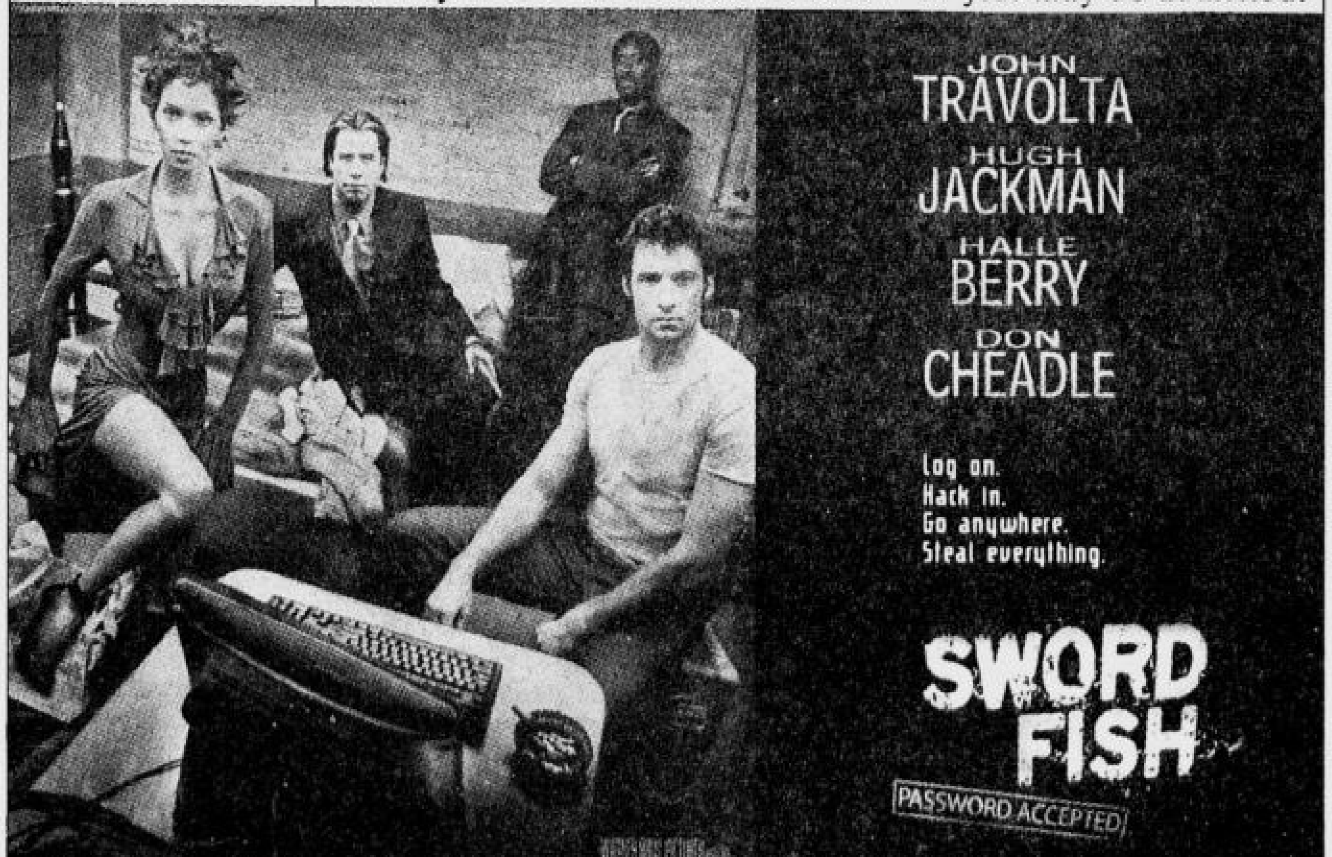

88.3 89.9 MAGIC ALL HITS, ALWAYS

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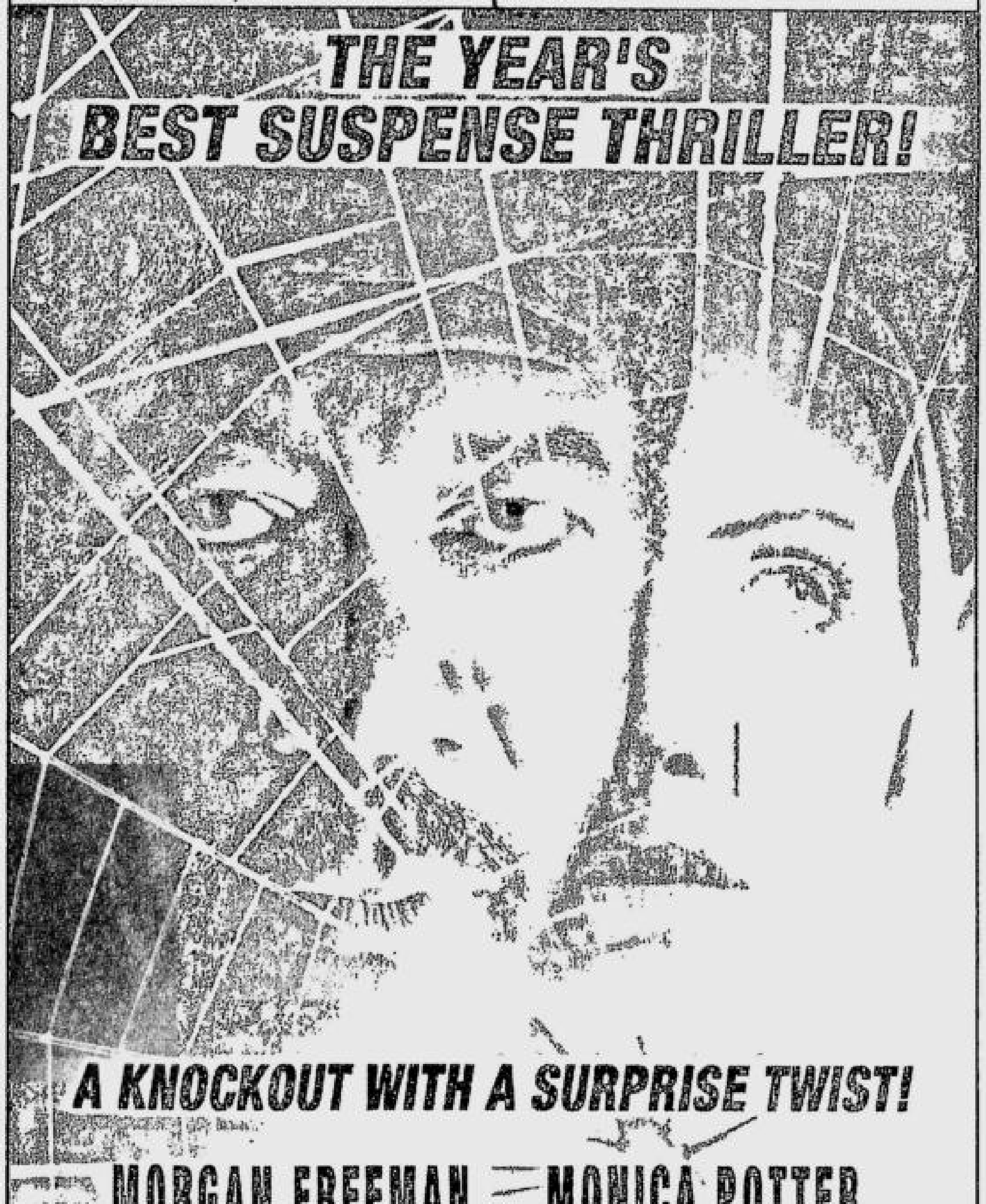
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A KNOCKOUT WITH A SURPRISE TWIST!

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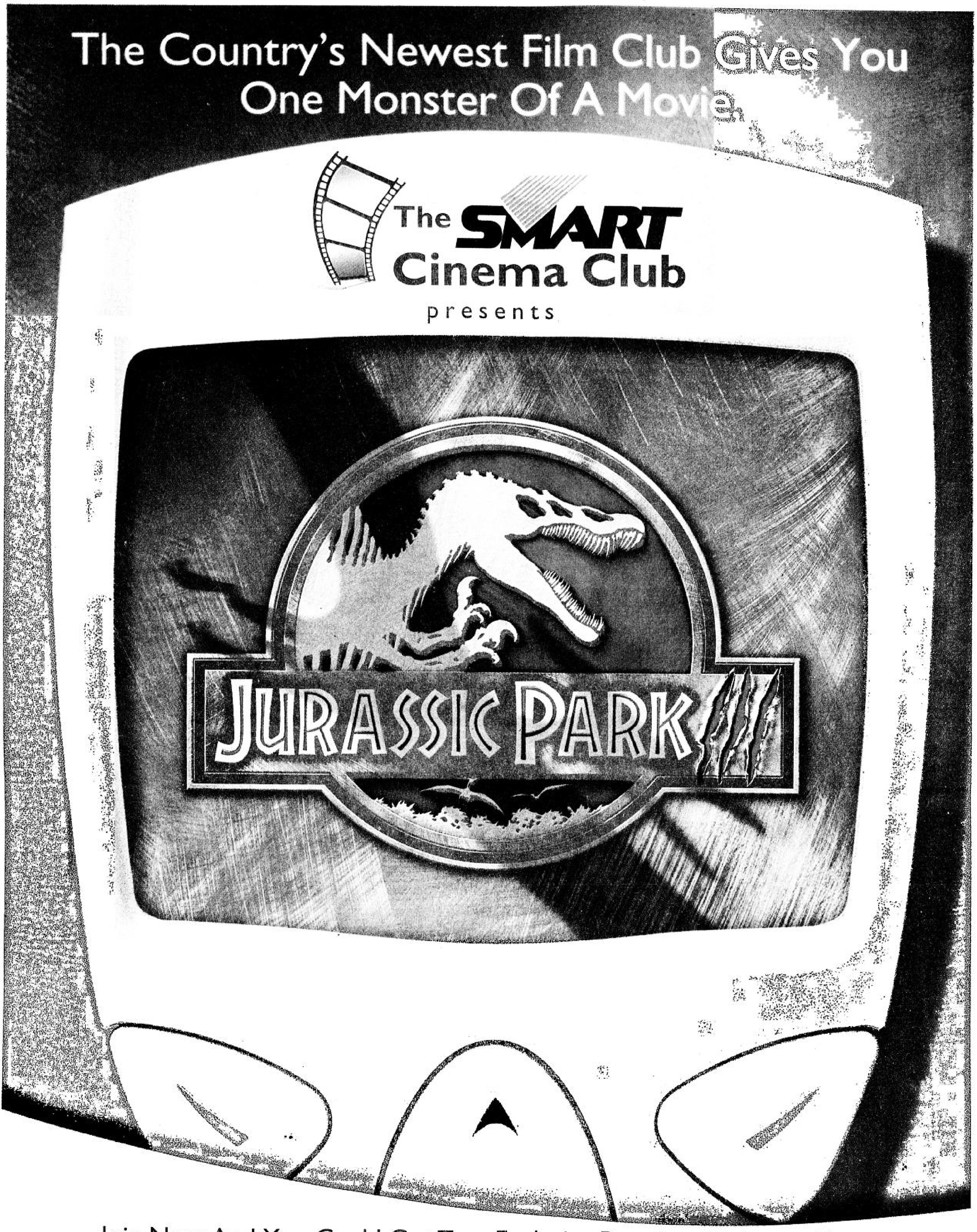

Join Now And You Could Get Two Exclusive Premiere Tickets -- Free.

Get reel with Smart's most exciting group yet: The Smart Cinema Club. Sign up from July 8 to 17, 2001 and you could be among the 300 registrants to watch the Jurassic Park III premiere on July 22, 2001. What's more, Smart Cinema Club members will be able to enjoy exclusive logos, graphics, and games as well as other chances to watch future showings of the hottest upcoming movies. So join now, and experience the lights, camera, action of this amazing club today.

Official Jurassic Park III Graphics

JPOVAL	JPTEXTL	JPPOSTER	JPTERA	JPOVALL
(Picture Message)	(Operator Logo)	(Picture Message)	(Picture Message)	(Operator Logo)

To join the Smart Cinema Club, key in **JOIN CINEMA** and send to 239. You will receive instructions for the next registration steps.

To invite friends to join, key in **INVITE** <your friends' numbers> and send to 239. You can invite up to 3 friends at one time.

To receive more information on different commands, key in **HELP** <command> and send to 239.

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PICTURE MESSAGES*:
To get a list of keywords, key in **PIC JP** and send to 239.
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JURASSIC PARK III GAME:
To play the JP3 game, key in **PLAY JP** and send to 239.

*Available on selected Nokia handsets only.

Promo Mechanics:

1. From July 8-17, 2001, all Smart Gold and Buddy subscribers registered with the Smart Cinema Club are eligible to win free premiere tickets to Jurassic Park III to be shown on July 22, 2001.
2. Draw date will be on July 18, 2001. Winners will be notified by text message and a call to their registered mobile number.
3. Winners can claim their prize at DDB Phils., 10/F Legaspi Suites, Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City starting July 18, 2001. Or at the Smart Cinema Club Booth at the Robinsons Galleria Cinema on July 22, 2001.
4. Promo is for the Greater Metro Manila area only.

See flyers for details.

All text messages will be charged P2.50 each. Logos, graphics, and picture messages are P12.00 each.
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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

RP, Japan agree on $3-B swap deal

TOKYO—Japan and the Philippines have reached a basic agreement to set up a dollar-peso swap facility as part of an Asia-wide currency safety net to fend off future financial crises, officials said yesterday.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials said the policy-making Monetary Board approved a currency swap deal with Japan at its weekly meeting on Thursday.

Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said: "Yes, approved by the Monetary Board, amount to be discussed."

A Japanese government source said the formal offer letter has yet to be exchanged. "The amount is expected to be around $3.0 billion," the source said.

The deal could give fresh impetus to the painstaking process of creating a regional currency safety net, known as the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI), which analysts regard as laying the foundation for a permanent monetary fund in Asia.

The Tokyo-led initiative aims to avert a repeat of Asia's 1997-98 financial crisis by linking international reserves of the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) with those of Japan, South Korea and China.

Before the Philippines-Japan deal, Japan had agreed to set up a $3.0-billion currency swap deal with Thailand, a $2.0-billion pact with South Korea and a $1.0-billion swap facility with Malaysia.

While Manila has been keen to set up the swap scheme with Japan since negotiations started in March, it took time to nail down technical details.

Japanese Finance Ministry officials have said this was because in the Philippines, the central bank, which has jurisdiction over international reserves, has a stronger sense of independence from the government than in other Asian nations.

Under the CMI framework, the initial term of a swap deal will be three months and can be renewed seven times, officials said.

The interest rate would be set at dollar Libor (the London interbank offered rate) plus a risk premium of 150 basis points for the first drawing and first renewal, with an additional 50 basis points added for every two subsequent renewals.

The initiative ties disbursements under the scheme to reforms supervised by the International Monetary Fund. In cases in which member countries are deemed to have a temporary liquidity crunch, they can borrow up to 10 percent of the swap line without a link to the IMF program.

Japan has also been holding talks with China on a yen-yuan currency swap deal. But the process has been slow because of the many decision-making stages in China, Japanese officials said.

That scheme will be mostly symbolic because neither Japan nor China is expected to see short-term liquidity or balance of payment crises. In addition, Japan is unlikely to need yuan in the near future, Japanese officials said.

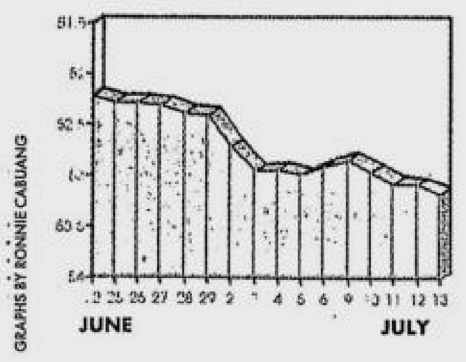
It was China's choice to prepare for a yen-yuan scheme because Beijing already has enough dollar-denominated foreign reserves, they added.

China's participation is important for regional cooperation after Beijing relaxed its opposition to a Japanese call in 1997 for an Asian Monetary Fund, an idea fiercely opposed by the United States. *Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 53.17 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 13, 2001

¥ 124.08 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 124.08 as of 5 p.m., July 13, 2001

GOLD:$266.60/267.10

per ounce Hong Kong, July 13, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares down

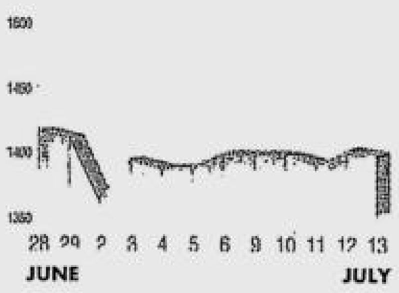
THE MAIN stock index yesterday ended slightly down because of the weak peso and worries that Argentina's debt crisis might weigh down on sentiment in emerging markets.

The 33-share composite index slipped 3.12 points, or 0.22 percent, to 1,396.30 points. But gainers outnumbered losers 47 to 37, while the prices of 37 issues were unchanged.

Turnover thinned to P207.27 million from the previous P289.081 million.

"The peso continues to be a worry," Nestor Aguila, chair of the DA Market Securities Inc., said. The peso had fallen to a fresh 5-1/2 month low of 53.40 to the dollar on Thursday. *Reuters*

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

BSP says churning aggravates peso fall

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas accused banks of "churning" or trading dollars among themselves which, it claimed, pulled down the peso yesterday to 53.17 to the dollar by nine centavos from the previous day's level.

"We see rates (dollar versus the peso) going up despite at an unusually low (trade) volume. I am a little bit annoyed," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Buenaventura explained that banks were engaged in churning when they buy and sell dollars not for their clients but for their own accounts.

Although the volume of trade yesterday was only $46 million compared to the previous day's $119 million, traders said they noticed a slight intervention by the central bank through selling dollars.

Buenaventura, however, denied the claim although he repeatedly warned the banks against churning yesterday. "We are watching them closely and we will not hesitate to provide liquidity (to the market) if need arises."

He said the uncertainties in the emerging markets contributed to the continuing decline of the peso.

"The market has been volatile partly because of the situation in Argentina which is affecting emerging markets, including ours," said the central bank governor.

A trader from a foreign bank said the market sentiment worsened after telecom giant PLDT had announced it would postpone a planned $600-million bond issue because of unfavorable market conditions overseas.

The trader said the local financial markets were counting on the inflow from the PLDT bond offer to help improve the value of the peso on top of the $500-million bond deal that the national government will pursue with the help of Credit Suisse First Boston.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the peso was expected to improve in the medium term. "We don't expect this (the peso fall) to continue and even foreign banks believe the peso will strengthen."

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VECTRA 2.0L A/T	₱ 1,165,000	₱ 582,500	₱ 32,362	₱ 48,542	ZERO% INTEREST
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Mike the knife

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FIRST Gentleman Miguel "Just Call Me Mike" Arroyo says he is not running for any public office. He has no aspiration in politics for himself.

His goal is simple. He says he only wants his wife to become president. Been there, done that! In macho military parlance, mission accomplished, dear!

Anyway, it so happened the trophy came earlier than planned. And, of course, Glorinetta became President at the expense of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

But can Just Call Me Mike take it easy now? Over tea at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati, he tells me, "I have more work now that I am not working."

* * *

NOWADAYS, packing it tight shoulder-to-shoulder and crotch-to . . . well, whatever, on Thursday nights and probably until breakfast is the same hotel's Conways bar.

There, the Makati crowd gets a threat of old songs, belted out by a live band, made up of bald guys having second childhood. Just kidding. It's a superb band. Try it!

About two months ago, in the same crowded bar with the same band in midlife crisis was seen the First Couple, namely, the Glorinetta-and-Mike Couple.

Despite a lot of things to do, apparently, the Couple could still go out on a date. Well, group date! Seated at their table was Marcos in-law Greggy Araneta.

* * *

GREGGY was not the same guy who, with wife Irene Marcos, was not supposed to have gone to Germany, allegedly not to launder a little amount of $13 billion only.

The so-called hidden wealth of the Marcoses, if it's no longer hidden by banks in Europe, can solve a lot of problems in this country. We just have to get it, that's all.

That $13 billion can go a long way for economic development. As it is, we are voted as among the costliest and toughest place in the whole of Asia to do business in.

All right, based on the survey conducted by Hong Kong's Political and Economic Risk Consultancy, we are still better than India and Vietnam. I don't think it's an honor.

* * *

BUT here we are, the United States is nagging us to stop the laundering of dirty money in our banks, yet it keeps mum about the stolen wealth in European banks.

For countries like the Philippines, where people die of hunger, if they are not killing each other to get on top of the food chain, money laundering sucks.

We are a pushover country, and those in Europe are not. It's a different story when European banks make a lot of money out of blood money from poor countries.

* * *

NASTY rumors are going around about Just Call Me Mike. They all say he has a sharp knife. You know—for cutting deals!

Mike says he hurts over those rumors. First came the one about Impsa. This is a company from Argentina trying hard to get a power project here off the ground.

One cellular phone rumor, i.e. text message, even reached Mike. It said he made a killing in a deal with Impsa. He says, "I don't even know what Impsa means."

Impsa is the very same company, as Mike recalls, which had a contract with the state-owned Napocor with Wrist Band as the "unwitting godfather." Oops.

* * *

IT was also during the time of Kuya Eddie when Impsa proposed that it should get the multibillion-peso power plant here. It is known as an unsolicited proposal.

That means nobody even asked Impsa to do it. As a rule, Impsa cannot get government guarantee on its loans. Both Wrist Band and Kuya Eddie followed the rule.

But four days into this cute administration of Glorinetta, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez issued an opinion changing the rule. But he said it was just an opinion.

Perez opined that the government could give Impsa the guarantee, why not? And that was not just anybody's opinion. It's not as if it came from a radio commentator.

* * *

INSTEAD of only Perez himself getting the flak, since he was the opinion-only-giver, somehow the rumors led to Mike as the principal behind Perez.

Mike tells me he heard it first from former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago during Edsa Tres. She said Mike made $17 million. Ha, that big? For an opinion?

Anyway, Mike says Miriam's take was basically political, and he, therefore, took it like any political propaganda. The subsequent cellular phone rumor hurt.

It reached him via somebody he actually knew. The figure already became P400 million. Apparently, the text messages even took inflation into account.

* * *

DOES he think people believe the rumors? Mike says it's a free country. He just knows that he even chooses to stop practicing his profession. He is a lawyer.

Technically, as the husband of the President, Mike can still get cases that are basically between private businesses. He chooses not to, afraid of what people may say.

Thus, he does charity work. He has a free legal assistance program. He is trying to build a hospital near Malacañang, funded by Spain, servicing only the poor.

In a room in Malacañang hang the portraits of the spouses of the presidents, all of them First Ladies. Well, Tita Cory was already a widow when she became president.

I have one more question, but frankly I can never find the gall to ask it. Will Mike's portrait hang there, too? Oh, stop it already!

BPI tops BusinessWeek's list of RP's most valuable firms

DESPITE the country's poor economic performance, four Philippine companies have made it to BusinessWeek's list of "The Top 200 Emerging-Market Companies" according to market capitalization.

Among the four cited, Bank of the Philippine Islands ranked the highest at the 132nd spot, followed by San Miguel Corp., 135th; Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co., 145th; and, Ayala Corp., 155th.

The market values of these companies now dominating emerging markets were based on their share prices as of May 31 multiplied by the latest available number of shares outstanding. These were then translated into US dollars based on the exchange rate as of end-May.

As with a number of other companies, BPI jumped from the 170th spot last year to No. 132 as a result of its strategic positioning and its merger with Far East Bank and Trust Co.

Industry experts said the well-timed merger with FEBTC had allowed BPI to better compete with regional banks. This observation is borne out by the fact that the stock price of BPI continues to outperform the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, having risen by 24 percent from the end-2000 level. The Phisix has declined by 6.5 percent over the same period.

On top of the Top 200 Emerging-Market Companies list was China Mobile of Hong Kong, followed by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp., oil company Petrobras of Brazil, South Korea's Samsung Electronics and Telefonos de Mexico.

While technology and telecom companies, however, continued to make their presence felt in the bourses of the emerging markets, the same was not true for companies in these categories in BusinessWeek's Global 1,000 list of the world's largest companies.

BusinessWeek reports: "After months of relentless battering in the markets, it's no surprise that many technology and telecommunications companies (in developed markets) retain only a fraction of their former value. But this dramatic reversal of fortune has been accentuated by a wave of mergers and acquisitions—mainly in Old Economy industries from banking to pharmaceuticals to petroleum."

The magazine observed that leaders of new corporate behemoths such as AOL Time Warner and Pfizer were "doing more than just shopping. They are also slashing costs and rethinking strategy to produce more value for shareholders."

They have replaced Cisco Systems, Nokia, Vodafone, NTT DoCoMo and other companies that rode the dotcom wave.

Domestic liquidity rose to 14.7% in May

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

WHILE money circulating in the local financial system has grown to 14.7 percent in May from its level a year earlier, loans extended by banks to both the government and the private sector have shrunk month-on-month.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that instead of extending loans, banks opted in May to instead place their funds in foreign assets, mainly securities abroad, as local interest rates slipped.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, denied that the country was already suffering from a capital flight, although economists revealed that there had been movement of capital from pesos to dollars in recent months.

Year-on-year, liquidity in the system improved in May largely on account of election spending and a weaker peso.

Net domestic credits—a record of all borrowings in the local system—rose 6.9 percent in May from its level a year earlier. Credits to the private and public sectors improved by 4.8 percent and 12.2 percent.

Against April data, however, domestic liquidity fell as loans to the government and the private sector slid by 0.88 percent and 0.9 percent.

A central bank official explained that banks preferred to invest deposits in foreign securities, as reflected by a 3.26-percent growth in their foreign assets out of their deposit base.

The BSP attributed the improved liquidity in the system to a six-percentage-point total cut in its key rates from December to May. It said it would allow domestic liquidity to grow to as much as 15 percent until the end of the year.

Allowing domestic liquidity to grow means the central bank, through a more relaxed monetary stance, will allow more funds to flow into the system to stimulate economic activity.

Domestic liquidity is a measure of money supply, including money held by individuals, institutional investors and banks.

The BSP said it had no available data on bank lending growth in May, but with net domestic credits down from its month-ago level, bank lending was seen to slow down anew from a 6.2-percent growth a month earlier.

The central bank had projected a 10-percent improvement in credit this year from a 7-percent growth last year.

DISCLOSURES

IMPERIAL Resources Inc.'s Philippine Cyber College has signed a partnership agreement with **Oracle Corp.** allowing the school to offer Oracle courses.

* * *

UNIOIL Resource & Holding Co. Inc. has appointed Peter Francis Zagala and Constantine Tecson III as corporate secretary and assistant corporate secretary, respectively.

* * *

URBAN Bank Inc. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on July 31, 9:30 a.m. at the 36th floor of Urban Bank Plaza, Makati City.

* * *

JG Summit Holdings Inc. has confirmed that its wholly owned unit, **Chic Center Corp.**, will be the exclusive distributor of **Za** products in the country.

* * *

KPPI Land Corp. has entered into an agreement with **Manila Jockey Club Inc.** for the sale and purchase of 77 hectares of land in Cavite to be developed into a world-class horseracing club.

* * *

FORTUNE Cement Corp. and its wholly owned subsidiary, **Premier Cement Corp.**, has entered into an agreement with **Blue Circle Philippines Inc., Republic Cement Corp., Iligan Cement Corp., Mindanao Portland Cement Corp.** and **Aalborg RCI White Cement Sdn Bhd.** The deal will allow Aalborg to develop a white cement business in the country. Fortune and Premiere will cease to sell and produce white cement while the agreement is in effect.

* * *

AJO.Net Holdings Inc. has announced the opening of its ninth **Qnet** location at the World Wide Plaza in Hong Kong. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Gov't, 7 business groups create capital market advisory council

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and the local financial community yesterday agreed to form a multisectoral financial and capital markets advisory council to work toward badly needed reforms to restore investor confidence in the country.

In a forum with the President, the country's seven biggest associations representing the country's financial and capital markets, proposed the creation of the new council as among the most immediate actions necessary to reinvigorate the battered local markets.

Ms Macapagal aqreed to the proposal and named Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho as the government's representative to the multisectoral council.

The seven groups are the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, Fund Managers Association of the Philippines, Financial Markets Association (ACI Philippines), Investment Companies Association of the Philippines, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, Money Market Association of the Philippines and Trust Officers' Association of the Philippines.

BPI Capital and Ihap president Senen Magtoto said it would be through the council that the local financial community would promote legislation and pursue proposals, initiatives and reforms needed to "steer our financial and capital markets out of the doldrums we find ourselves in at present."

"Restoring confidence in our capital markets requires close cooperation between the private sector and government. On the government's side, this requires an enabling regulatory environment that promotes market growth and development while offering adequate protection to the investors," Magtoto said.

The new council aims to conduct continuing dialogue among market practitioners, industry associations, and the executive and legislative branches of the government.

Ms Macapagal said she welcomed the establishment of a multisectoral council that would work closely with the administration in promoting national development objectives. While she designated Camacho as the official Cabinet official that would meet with the new council, she also pledged to appear during the dialogues herself "every so often."

Magtoto also proposed, in behalf of the seven associations, the adoption by the Securities and Exchange Commission of uniform disclosure standards, particularly in relation to accounting practices, reportorial format and ownership. He also lauded the President's declaration of support for initiatives to review and amend the Securities Regulation Code.

The President said she would instruct SEC Chair Lilia Bautista to hear the local financial community's suggestion on the amendments to the SRC and its implementing rules and regulations as well as the adoption of uniform disclosure standards.

New tech seen lifting coal industry

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

A NEW technology called "circulating fluidized bed," or CFB, will help revive the ailing local coal mining industry, according to an industry expert.

Jacques Barthelemy, export manager of France-based Alstom Power, said in a recent industry gathering that the widespread use of CFB boilers in new power plants would make coal more acceptable to the public.

"A CFB boiler design would be able to accommodate all the local coal minable in the Philippines," Barthelemy said.

Local coal reserves are largely lignite to sub-bituminous, which means they are low-grade and do not burn as efficiently and as cleanly as high-grade coal.

"CFB technology will match, without any difficulty, all the provisions of the Clean Air Act," Barthelemy said.

The law mandates limits on nitrogen oxide, sulfur oxide and particulates in the emissions of both old and new power plants.

So far, only the 55-megawatt Toledo power plant in Cebu uses CFB technology.

"I believe CFB technology is probably one of the good solutions to bear in mind whenever a new power station is to be installed in the country," he said.

Most power plants built in the country over the past decade use pulverized coal boilers designed for high-grade, imported coal. This pushed down the demand for local coal, which is usually blended with imported coal.

According to figures from the Department of Energy, local coal production has stagnated at just over a million metric tons yearly over the past 10 years.

In the same period, coal imports grew from 2.13 million metric tons in 1989 to 6.86 million metric tons in 2000.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, July 13, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	71	71	70	70.5	133,100
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	30
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	25,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	205	206	204	205	36,380
Philippine National Bank	41	41	41	41	100
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29	28.5	29	36,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	255	250	255	420
Manulife Financial Corp.	1420	1430	1420	1430	1,640
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1250	1255	1250	1255	9,550
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	40.5	40	40.5	2,800
Diversified Fin. Network	8.5	8.8	8.5	8.8	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	1,700,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	670	670	530
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.8	4	3.7	4	40,000
Piltel	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.58	270,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	700	690	690	35,810
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.035	0.035	0.034	0.035	27,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	38.5	38.5	38	38	4,500
Manila Electric Co. B	51	53	51	52	136,300
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.06	1.98	2.02	840,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.46	2.48	2.34	2.34	3,491,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.41	0.44	0.41	0.44	230,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	640,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	14,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	164,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.06	25,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5	5	4.85	4.9	1,065,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	139,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26	27	422,900
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	10,000
RFM Corp.	2.2	2.26	2.2	2.22	4,922,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42.5	43	42	42.5	229,100
San Miguel Corp. B	48	50.5	48	50	646,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	140,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	20,000
Ayala Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	1,207,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.48	1.52	1.46	1.52	381,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11	2,200
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.24	1.12	1.16	1,955,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	120,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	17,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	600
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	180,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.76	1.76	2,129,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	40,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	280,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.145	0.13	0.13	2,930,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	190,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	147,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	150,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	8,100
Ipeople Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	107,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	45,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,010,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.7	6.2	5.6	6.2	98,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,440,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	190,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	1.92	2	1.92	2	230,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
Prime Gaming Mgmt. Corp.	15	15	15	15	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.83	0.86	0.83	0.86	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	15	14.25	15	35,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.51	1,630,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.46	160,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	15,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40.5	40.5	40	40	199,600
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.86	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	12,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	18,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.022	0.023	0.021	0.023	77,200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	358,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	30,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	40,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	710,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	248,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	110,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	973,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	200,000
UrbanCorp.Realty Dev. Inc.	0.51	0.58	0.5	0.51	920,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	6,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	25,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.035	0.042	0.034	0.041	85,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	38,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.023	81,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.42	5,350,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	4,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	55,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	41,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.27	80,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	140,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	25,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	253,220	33,213,990.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	167,356,440	153,935,870.00
PRO	3,839,000	9,428,310.00
Mining	220,991,000	9,444,080.00
OIL	121,420,000	1,944,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	513,859,660	207,967,150.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	562.53	DOWN 2.64
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,985.09	DOWN 3.49
PRO	530.55	DOWN 0.15
Mining	1,384.36	UP 23.52
OIL	1.66	UP 0.08
All Shares Index	797.40	UP 3.26
Composite	1,396.30	DOWN 3.12

NO. OF ADVANCES: 47; NO. OF DECLINES: 37; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 121; NO. OF TRADES: 2,197

CURRENCIES

July 13, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.171372	1.000000	53.2460
Japan	Yen	0.009460	0.008076	0.4300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.648823	1.407600	74.9491
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.150187	0.128215	6.8269
Switzerland	Franc	0.661419	0.564653	30.0655
Canada	Dollar	0.766604	0.654450	34.8468
Singapore	Dollar	0.638768	0.545316	29.0359
Australia	Dollar	0.592021	0.505408	26.9110
Bahrain	Dinar	3.107252	2.652661	141.2436
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.312340	0.266645	14.1978
Brunei	Dollar	0.636788	0.543626	28.9459
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000088	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025722	0.021959	1.1692
UAE	Dirham	0.318922	0.272264	14.4970
Korea	Won	0.000904	0.000772	0.0411
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.853700	45.4561
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.43649	23.2413
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130146	6.9298
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.387392	20.6271
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062041	3.3034
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021163	1.1268
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000441	0.0235
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.143582	7.6452
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004258	0.2267
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005131	0.2732
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.021163	1.1268
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.083975	57.7173

Urban Bank rehab deal signed

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE MEMORANDUM of agreement governing the rehabilitation of Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp was finally signed yesterday in a ceremony presided over by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The signatories of the MOA were Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president and chief executive officer Norberto Nazareno, Export and Industry Bank chair Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., EIB president Benjamin Castillo and National Association of Urban Bank and Urbancorp Depositors and Creditors Inc.

It sealed the deal calling for the rehabilitation of Urban Bank after the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, gave its approval in principle to the proposed rehabilitation in its regular meeting Thursday.

The rehabilitation plan will allow depositors and creditors of Urban Bank and Urbancorp to withdraw up to P500,000 on its first day of business sometime in August. Of the balance of deposits, 30 percent will be paid by the end of the first year, another 30 percent on the second year while the remaining 40 percent may be withdrawn by the end of the third year.

Urban Bank will be the first closed bank to be reopened under PDIC receivership.

Also yesterday, Nazareno turned over to President Macapagal P1 billion worth of mid-year dividends on the government's investments.

Under the PDIC-approved rehabilitation plan, at least 10 percent of the deposits and placements of Urban Bank and its 40-percent owned investment house, Urbancorp, will be converted into equity. EIB will later merge with Urban Bank and Urbancorp to create an entity with a capitalization of P3.8 billion and resources of P25 billion.

Urban Bank, a publicly listed company, will be the surviving entity but the name of the bank will be subsequently changed to Export and Industry Bank.

As part of its commitment to help the bank, PDIC will extend P200 million in financial assistance to EIB and will provide by the second year a P1.5 billion standby facility to EIB to cover unanticipated withdrawals.

Around 5,000 depositors and creditors have funds trapped in Urban Bank and Urbancorp amounting to P12 billion. This was on top of the over P3 billion combined funds of the two financial institutions' three largest depositors/investors—San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

The three big depositors have agreed to restructure their combined deposits and placements into long-term loans. Three-quarters of the amount to be restructured will be spread over three-years while the remaining 25 percent would be stretched over six years.

GTEB woos garments, textile buyers

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE GARMENTS and Textile Export Board has mounted a marketing blitz in Hong Kong to woo major apparel buyers in a frantic bid to lift the country's sagging garment exports to the United States.

In a report, the GTEB claimed that the aggressive marketing push was a success as key players in the industry such as GAP International, Liz Claiborne, Target Brands, Cutter & Buck (of S&R Price Club) and Tamarind International (representing NEXT and Marks & Spencer) signified their plans to boost their orders from the Philippines.

The GTEB said GAP has committed to boost its orders by $20 million and it plans to look for business opportunities for vendors of denim trousers and children's wear. GAP, one of the country's biggest American buyers, was reported earlier as having cut its purchases by five purchases during the period.

Liz Claiborne is planning to increase its purchases by 15 to $59.7 million this year.

A 14-member GTEB team led by GTEB executive director Fe Agoncillo-Reyes went to Hong Kong from June 26 to 28 to convince US buyers to purchase more apparel from the Philippines.

This drastic step was taken to arrest the rapid decline in the export of the country's garments and textiles to the United States.

The GTEB reported that exports were flat at $1.258 billion in the first five months this year, a big disappointment from its double-digit growth performance last year. At this pace, the GTEB doubts whether it could duplicate its $3 billion export performance last year.

During the talks with the buyers, the GTEB said most major buyers have been scouting for new sources of basic garment requirements from Africa, Jordan, Mexico, the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan region that were not bound by duty or quota fees.

The GTEB said the Philippines was also facing stiff competition from China, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Turkey, Greece and Korea, which boast of lower cost of labor and proximity to the US market.

Despite these disadvantages, the GTEB highlighted the Philippines' edge in producing more intricately designed apparel as well as marketed complementary products such as fashion accessories, bags, luggage and handicraft.

More laws to promote energy efficiency sought

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

RISING crude prices bring about the need for more laws that will promote energy efficiency and conservation, an official of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. said.

"Instead of tinkering with the Oil Deregulation Law and embarking on expensive experiments like the oil exchange, legislative efforts should be channeled to encourage the efficient use of energy," Pilipinas Shell vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said.

Gamboa added that such efforts should also promote the exploration and development of more indigenous energy sources like the Malampaya gas field.

The official was reacting to the refiling of a bill proposing the establishment of an oil exchange.

"The acknowledged model of the proposed oil exchange, which is the California power exchange, is now being criticized by California residents, who complained about the unreasonably high power rates in the state."

The oil exchange would have the sole authority in importing oil products and local oil companies would have to buy from it.

Gamboa stressed that rising crude prices and the deterioration of the peso against the dollar continued to be the reason behind oil price hikes in the past two years.

Pilipinas Shell led the latest round of price increases in the wholesale posted prices of oil products on July 1.

"Since the early part of 1999, crude prices in the world market increased from $10 per barrel to as high as $32 per barrel," Gamboa said.

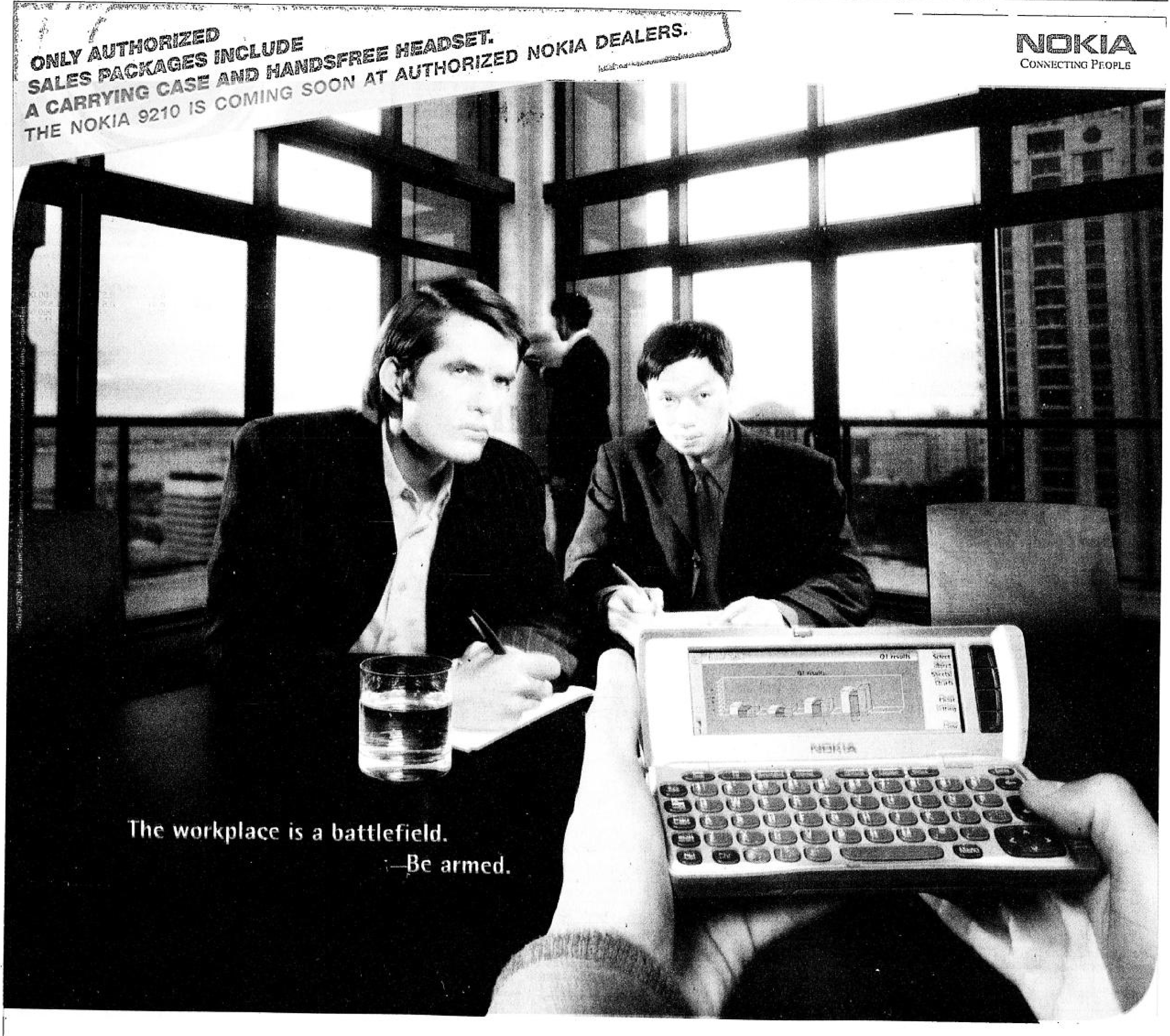
He added that the peso exchange rate weakened from 40 to 53 to the dollar.

"Clearly, the existing Oil Deregulation Law is not the culprit," he stressed.

Last week, Energy Secretary Vincent S. Perez said, "going back to a regulated regime will be favorable to oil companies more than the consuming public."

Perez made the remark as he reiterated his call for the public not to blame the process of deregulation for the recent oil price increases.

"In fact, a spokesperson of one oil company admitted recently that going back to a regulated regime is more favorable to them," Perez said in a statement.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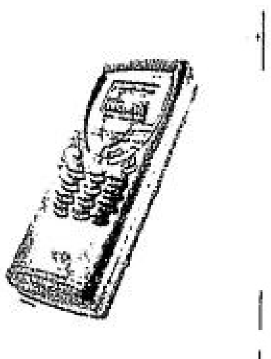

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INVITATION TO BID

The **Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)**, invites boat builders and/or contractors to bid for the construction of twenty (20) Coastal Fisheries Patrol Boats for the Fisheries Resource Management Project (FRMP), a project funded by the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. The Coastal Fisheries Patrol Boats shall have the following specifications:

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A Single Stage Bidding with Variation shall be adapted which will require bidders to submit their technical and financial proposals separately in two (2) sealed envelopes. The technical proposals shall be opened and evaluated to determine their compliance with the Instruction to Bidders. Submitted Qualification Documents, as prescribed in the Instruction to Bidders shall also be reviewed at this stage. The bidders will be ranked based on the qualification documents and their technical proposals.

After the technical evaluation, only the financial proposals of those bidders who are found substantially compliant with the technical specifications shall be opened and evaluated further. Price proposals can be quoted either in Philippine Peso or U.S. dollar. The price proposals of those who have been found substantially non compliant with the technical and qualification requirements shall be returned unopened.

After a list of technically-compliant bidders is completed, the PBAC shall immediately set the date for the opening of the financial proposals which shall not be earlier than seven (7) days after the deadline set for the opening of the technical proposals. Concerned bidders shall be informed by the PBAC of the exact place, date and time of the opening of the financial proposals either by phone, fax, registered mail or email.

Awarding of the contract will be based more on the bidder's performance record, technical and financial capability and technical proposal. Evaluation of price proposals will be based within the prescribed limits in government public bidding.

Instruction to Bidders containing requirements for the qualifying documents, technical and financial proposals are available starting Wednesday, July 18, 2001 until 4:00 p.m. July 27, 2001 at the Fisheries Resource Management Project, 2nd Floor, Estuar Bldg., 880 Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City.

A Pre-Bid Conference with the prospective bidders will be held on July 30, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the FRMP Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Estuar Bldg., 880 Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City.

Additional information may be furnished upon request. Address all communications to the Chairman, PBAC, Attention: The Secretariat, Fisheries Resource Management Project, 2nd Floor, Estuar Bldg., 880 Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City.

The BFAR reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or infirmities therein, and to accept the bid considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MARCIANO F. CARREON III**
Director, Fisheries, Resource Management Project (FRMP)

(PDI - July 14, 2001)

National Power Corporation

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SLRC-2001-08A

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		DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 6, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1	135 MT	CAUSTIC SODA (LIQUID)	3TIW01-013
A2	1 LOT	J.O. REFILLING OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	3MAK01-235
A3	1 LOT	J.O. LOADING, HAULING, UNLOADING OF STEEL POLES (270 PCS)	3PTG01-036
A4	1 LOT	J.O. BODY REPAIR/PAINTING OF L-200	3ADM01-121
A5	1 LOT	J.O. BODY REPAIR/PAINTING OF L-300 VAN	3ADM01-122
A6	1 LOT	J.O. BODY REPAIR/PAINTING OF NISSAN VANETTE	3ADM01-124
A7	1 LOT	ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES FOR LOCAL AREA NETWORK INSTALLATION	3AFS01-020
A8	1 LOT	PLASTIC CONTAINERS AND BAGS	3TIW01-06-034
		DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 7, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	1 PC	PH ELECTRODE	3BAC01-224
B2	24 SETS	ROOF VENTILATOR	3ADM01-126
B3	65 PCS	CONNECTORS (WEDGE TYPE)	3PTG01-030
B4	1 LOT	PARTS FOR FIRE FIGHTING CONTROL SYSTEM	3BAC01-351
B5	2 ASSY.	STARTER CONTACTOR	3BAC01-376
B6	1 LOT	RUBBER SEAL (VARIOUS SIZES)	3TIW01-010
B7	17 UNITS	PORTABLE HANDHELD RADIOS	3BAC01-037
		DATED OF BIDDING: AUGUST 8, 2001; 2:00 PM	
C1	1 LOT	EXPANSION JOINT, SPEED CHANGER ASSY., LOAD LIMITER ASSY.	3MAK01-134
C2	2 PCS	EXPANSION JOINT (FLEXIBLE)	3MAK01-240
C3	2 SETS	FAN BLADES (HUDSON TUF-LITE)	3BAC01-121
C4	1 LOT	PUMP AND MOTOR SET	3TIW00-070
C5	1 LOT	SPARE AS FOR "KAJI" AIR COMPRESSOR	3MAK00-728
C6	1 LOT	J.O. REPAIR/REHAB OF WATER COOLED CHILLER	3MAK01-038
C7	1 LOT	PORTABLE DISSOLVED GAS ANALYZER (CHROMATOGRAPH)	3PTG01-016
C8	1 LOT	J.O. REPLACEMENT OF ACOUSTIC BOARD CEILING	3MAK01-129

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **July 19, 2001**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than July 27, 2001 before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION

(PDI -- July 14, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #602 JP RIZAL ST.,MAKATI CITY; #15 GEN. SANTOS AVE., LOWER BICUTAN, TAGUIG; REAL ST. ALMANZA UNO LAS PINAS CITY will hold an **Auction Sale** on **JULY 21, 2001** • at **9:00A.M.** including all unredeemed items pawned up to February 2001
V.Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Call: 0917-5332939

I need Medicines Hospital Supplies & Equipt Any Quantity 4175967 Kristine

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Make your own franchise coffee shop/kiosk w/ind'l machines, ref, eqpt. plus manual of OPS 475K Call:(0917)9710295 James

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar 3738821

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the late ELIZER D. VISPO was extrajudicially settled by his only heirs under Doc# 248, Page# 51, Book# 67, Series of 2001, before Notary Public Atty. Quirico L. Pilotin of Santiago City Isabela.
(PDI- June 30, July 7, & 14 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that BPI Stock Cert. 165101 issued to Victoriana C. Ligan was lost as notarized by Atty. Danilo M. Lombos under Doc.# 9, Page#1,Book#7,Series 2001 (PDI-June 30,July 7&14,2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

RISE E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS

Announces the opening of our new Corporate PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS

Suite 1906 Galleria Corporate Center
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Tel. Nos.: (02) 687-4311/687-1737/687-0941

WELCOME !!!

BCO GRAND LAUNCHINGS

July 14, 2001 Time: 3:00 PM

- *RISE Excel-Pangasinan*
  Mr. Manuel G. Valdez
  Nancayasan, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan
  Tel. Nos. (075) 568-5116/CP # 0917-4473280

RISE Iloilo
Amigo Terrace Hotel, Iloilo City
Tel No. (033) 337-9252 CP # 0917-5141369

July 17, 2001 Time: 3:00 PM

- *RISE E-Commerce Marikina*
  Ms. Erlinda C. Sernadilla
  Rm 302 #51 Bayanbayan Ave., Marikina Heights, Marikina City Tel. No. (02) 934-7764
  CP # 0919-3949151

July 19, 2001 Time: 3:00 PM

- *RISE Commonwealth Group*
  Ms. Ofelia J. Ballesta
  628 Grapes St., Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
  Tel. Nos.: (02) 932-2490 / 428-0840

July 20, 2001 Time: 3:00 PM

- *RISE Global City Taguig*
  Ms. Regina C. Velasco
  355 B-8 GHQ Zone 1-C Signal, Taguig, Metro Manila Tel. Nos.: (02) 838-7883
  CP # 0919-4339797 / 0919-8990289

July 21, 2001 Time: 3:00 PM

- *RISE E-Novaliches*
  Ms. Emma C. Daniel
  #18 Sta. Rosa St., Villa Magdalena 2, Camarin Rd., Novaliches, Caloocan City / CP # 0919-3082387

July 25, 2001 Time: 3:00 PM

- Timmy Gabriel *(contact person)*
  Brgy. Tubigan Biñan, Laguna
  Tel. No.: (049) 839-1136

SOON TO LAUNCH....

- *RISE Tagbilaran City, Bohol*
  Tel. No.: (038) 235-3853
- *RISE Project 8, Quezon City*
  Ms. Rosario E. Ranoa
  106-B Rd. 20, Project 8, Quezon City
  Tel No.: (038) 235-3853 / CP # 0917-3502595

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WE WILL GO GLOBAL IMMEDIATELY

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2nd Approtech St., Darkuman, Accra Ghanna
Telefax 233-24323337

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140 Des Boeux Rd., Central Hongkong
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BE A PART OF OUR GLOBAL CORPORATE FAMILY AS A *BUSINESS CENTER OPERATOR (BCO) or SUB-CENTER OPERATOR (SCO)*; ENJOY A PROFITABLE SERVICE & ALLIED BUSINESSES AND AT THE SAME TIME HELP UPLIFT THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE FILIPINO CONSUMERS. VISIT OR CALL RISE GROUP OF COMPANIES AT OUR CORPORATE ADDRESS OR CONTACT THE BUSINESS CENTERS NEAREST YOU....

Email Address: *info@rise-ecommerce.com*

OPON-KE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.
Dad Cleland Avenue, Lapulapu City
Cebu, Philippines

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF OPON-KE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

NOTICE is hereby given that the amended articles of incorporation of **OPON-KE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.** shortening the term of its existence and thereby dissolving the said corporation as of **31 May 2001** and a balance sheet showing that no creditors thereof will be affected by such dissolution have been filed with the Securities and Exchanges Commission. All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to present the same as its principal office at **Dad Cleland Avenue, Lapulapu City, Cebu,** for immediate settlement.

This announcement will serve as a notice to all parties concerned of the legal dissolution of the said corporation.

Cebu City, Philippines on 15th of June 2001.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIETA S. ALFANTE**
Assistant Corporate Secretary

(PDI - June 30, July 7 & 14, 2001)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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912-9008 to 11 (Ali Mall)

MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting offers to purchase/lease by way of sealed bids the following commercial and industrial properties on an "As Is - Where Is" basis:

A. FIRST TENDER

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/SQM
001-062	62 lots, 170 to 298 sqm. With TCTs	Brgy. Pandacaqui, Mexico, Pampanga	PhP 1,500.00 to PhP 1,650.00
063-064	2 lots, 1,288 sqm. & 1,340 sqm.	Bagong Nayon II Sites & Services Proj., Antipolo City	PhP 5,000.00 & 14,000.00

B. SECOND TENDER

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/SQM
001-008	8 lots with areas ranging 132.55 to 300.77 sqm.	Phase I-B, Karangalan Village, Pasig City	P80.00-P83.00
009	1 lot, 4,623.65 sqm.	Phase III-C, (Camino Vecinal Rd.) Karangalan Village, Pasig City	P100.00
010	1 lot, 10,177 sqm. with Bldg. 2,692.01 sqm.	Sapang Palay, Resettlement Proj. San Jose del Monte, Bulacan	Land - P3.00 Bldg. - 11.00
011	1 lot, 7,515 sqm. with Bldg., 1,512 sqm.	Dasmariñas, Bagong Bayan Resettlement Proj., Cavite	Land - P20.00 Bldg. 2 - P10.00

Interested parties may lease one/any or all of the lots offered, details of which may be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the COINBAC c/o CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Building, Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiry, please call Tel. Nos. 923-0390, 922-3001 & 926-4561 Loc. 302-303.

SCHEDULE	SECOND TENDER	FIRST TENDER
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	- 09 July to 23 July 2001 until 5:00 p.m. CIED, Mezzanine Flr. NHA, Elliptical Rd., Q.C.	09 July to 30 July 2001 until 5:00 p.m. CIED, Mezzanine Flr. NHA, Elliptical Rd., Q.C.
B. Pre-Bid Conference	- 18 July 2001, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center (O.C.) 3rd Flr. NHA, Elliptical Rd. Quezon City	19 July 2001, 10:30 a.m. (for Pampanga properties) NHA Maimpis Proj. Office San Fernando, Pampanga 20 July 2001, 10:00 a.m. (for both properties) O.C., 3rd Flr.
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	- 25 July 2001, until 12:00 nn O.C., 3rd Flr.	01 Aug. 2001, until 12:00 nn O.C., 3rd Flr.
D. Opening of Bids	- 25 July 2001, 1:30 p.m. O.C., 3rd Flr.	01 Aug. 2001, 1:30 p.m. O.C., 3rd Flr.

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN
General Manager

(PDI - July 7 & 14, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City

INVITATION TO BID

The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center invites all DOH-Manila accredited suppliers for Drugs and Medicines, Hospital Medical, Dental, Surgical, Laboratory, X-ray reagents and supplies to bid for the same at the Cobalt Building, BGHMC Auditorium, Baguio City.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on July 24, 2001, Tuesday, 2:00 PM at the same venue for any clarifications. Opening of the Bids is scheduled on August 2, 2001, Thursday, at exactly 2:00 PM at the same venue. Late Bidders shall be disqualified.

Instruction to Bidders (BAC FORM A) and Official Bid Tender Form (BAC FORM B) can be availed of at the office of the Chief, Medical Professional Staff c/o Mrs. Ma. Teresa C. Fajardo, after payment in cash of P300.00 at the Cashier's Office at the main hospital building, from July 17 to July 24, 2001, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The PBAC shall award the contracts to suppliers with the lowest qualifying bids. The BGHMC reserves the right to waive any minor deviations in the bid tender documents which do not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

Request or appeals for consideration will be entertained within seven (7) working days from posting of the winning bidders and may be submitted to the PBAC Secretariat, Mrs. Ma. Teresa C. Fajardo, BGHMC, for PBAC review, and will be decided on within seven (7) working days from receipt. The decision of the PBAC is final.

Inquiries may be made with the PBAC Secretariat, Mrs. Ma. Teresa C. Fajardo at 442-6230.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL V. FACTORA, M.D., MHA**
Medical Center Chief
BGHMC

(PDI--July 14, 15 & 16, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 • (632)920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS) East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1. GILDA & HAIDEE	Unknown	ROBERO ABUSTAN SS#03-4121635-9	December 26, 2000
2. CLARITA ALBIA ALMEROL	255 Nangka Road, Caloocan City	RODOLFO ALMEROL SS#03-1727108-5 03-2260897-5	November 25, 2000
3. PATRICIA ALONSO RIODINI	543 Alonso St., Malate, Manila	REYNALDO J. ALONSO SS#08-0125469-9	October 18, 2000
4. SALVACION	Unknown	ANTONINO P. ARIOLA SS#02-0367936-4	November 29, 2000
5. JULIET BUTIGAN	Unknown	VICENTE BANDA SS#33-3389023-0	December 16, 2000
6. LILIA LANURIAS BELARMINO	Tudela, Calmonte, Camotes	AURELIANO BAZARTE BELARMINO SS#06-0587420-4	February 23, 2001
7. HERMINIA CARPE	1334 Int. 1 Lardizabal, Sampaloc Manila	MELECIO MONTES SS#03-2157781-4	November 6, 2000
8. CONSUELO NAVARRO	3772 Hahn Ave., Beth Page, New York	EDGARDO CONCEPCION SS#03-0768465-7	June 21, 1982
9. LEONESTA	Unknown	POLICARPIO C. CORTEZ SS#03-1476000-7	November 29, 2000
10. CORAZON SAN PEDRO	Republic Cement Cpd. Norzagaray, Bulacan	ALBERTO CRUZ SS#03-3640628-4	January 30, 2000
11. ROSALITA DALANON	Unknown	LUCAS L. DALANON SS#06-0153224-9	February 11, 2001
12. ALMA GOMEZ	Unknown	LAMBERTO A. DESOLA SS#03-4403843-7	January 7, 2001
13. ESTRELLA, JOAN & DINA DIONISIO	15 Liwayway St., Sta. Ana, Manila	LEONCIO DIONISIO SS#03-8910812-8	September 23, 2000
14. CONSUELO A. DURAN	Unknown	TIRSO M. DURAN SS#03-0673840-3	February 26, 2001
15. LEONARDO FLORES	Paquil, Laguna	ANA ESTOPERES SS#03-4812728-3	August 25, 1996
16. VIRGINIA GARCIA MA. LUZ GARCIA ROLANDO GARCIA	Unknown	ELIGIO GARCIA SS#03-0424271-3	March 17, 2000
17. GUADALUPE MATADUS SALUDENA GONZALES	Unknown	LUCRESIO GONZALES SS#08-0175679-9	March 20, 2001
18. NIZA G. SAGAPSAPAN	Potungan, Dapitan City Zamboanga del Norte	CATALINO T. LOBINO SS#03-8722380-1	May 3, 2001
19. TITA SALVACION MACAMAY	Tambacan Zone 1, Iligan City	SALVADOR D. MACAMAY SS#08-0869068-3	October 13, 2000
20. LILIA ORBIDA MANI	#3 Santan St., Sampaguita, Marikina	ALVERO MANI SS#03-1384150-3	February 9, 2000
21. ESTELITO MENDOZA	Cacamilingan Norte, Camiling, Tarlac	LYDIA MENDOZA SS#02-0244472-3	March 10, 2001
22. NELSON MOLERO	Alang Alang, Mandaue City	LUZ A. MOLERO SS#06-0263980-8	December 1, 1995
23. MA. CLARITA MORALES	Bagumbong, Jalajala, Rizal	ANTONIO MORALES SS#03-2546335-1	March 15, 2001
24. SALLY B. MARTIR	77-B Naning Ponce, Quezon City	HERMAN A. MARTIR SS#03-0539197-7	January 2, 2001
25. MNOLI NABONG	138-B Samson Road, Caloocan City	EDUARDO M. NABONG SS#03-1719231-3	April 19, 2001
26. ROSALINDA PLANAS SALADAGA	Dipolog City	MANUEL B. SALADAGA SS#06-0501991-7	February 17, 2001
27. BIBIANA R. SERILLA JOCELYN R. SERILLA	Tibongco, Davao City	ANGEL SERILLA JR. SS#03-2584750-8	May 2, 2001
28. NICANOR REYES	Unknown	CORAZON TAPAO SS#03-5076292-0	March 9, 2001
29. SEGUNDA SALILE	2058 Modesto St., Malate, Manila	VIRGILIO P. TIONGCO SS#03-1250165-3	June 15, 2000
30. DELIA VILLASIS	Roxas City	BENEDICTO VILLASIS SS#03-2807997-5	July 2, 2000

(PDI – July 14, 2001)

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Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives
of the late

VICTOR SY GAISANO

who joined his CREATOR
on June 30, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude
and sincere appreciation
to everyone who helped and comforted us
during our time of bereavement.

At a time
when thoughtfulness means so much,
your kind expression of sympathy
was of the greatest comfort.

DR. JESUS "WILLIAM" A. BOLLOZOS, M.D.

of Ozamis City

Joined his Creator on Friday, July 6, 2001
at Harrison Hospital, Bremerton, Washington, U.S.A.

He is survived by his daughter **Marilu Mihaljevic** and family, of Brisbane, Australia; brother **Leoncio** and sister **Rosario B. Baytion**; sisters-in-law **Fe**, **Dolores**, **Beatriz**, and **Benedicta**; brother-in-law **Ricardo Baytion**; nephews, nieces and cousins.

His body lies in state at Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes at Capistrano Street, Cagayan de Oro City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 15, 2001 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Divine Shepherd Memorial Garden, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City.

The Board of Directors
Officers & Staff of
CALAPAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM, INC.
Oriental Mindoro
Announces with deep sorrow the demise
of its former Director

DR. CEFERINO R. GALVEZ

On July 12, 2001

His remains lie in state at the Batangas Cathedral, Batangas City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 15, 2001.

LYDIA DELOS SANTOS VERGARA

Peacefully joined her Creator
on July 11, 2001

Her bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel "C", Angel Funeral Parlor, Torres St., Davao City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 15, 2001 at Davao Memorial Park, Davao City.

> ***"From darkness let the light shine!"***
> *Genesis 1:3*

Judge Lino L. Anover (Ret.)

of Tacloban City

Peacefully joined our Lord
on July 12, 2001.

His loving wife **Corazon** (†); children **Mervyn** and **Inday**, **Rosabella** and **Loreto**, **Patricia** and **Rupert**, **Romulo** and **Udette** (†), **Cynthia** and **Nestor**, **Leonardo** and **Bessie**, **Ignacio** and **Mary Ann**, **Dennis** and **Beng**; and their grandchildren request friends and relatives to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Family residence in Tacloban City.

Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, 15th July at the San Jose Parish Church.

After which interment follows at the Tacloban Memorial Cemetery.

TERESITA SUTHERLAND ABREGANA

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 12, 2001 at the age of 68.
Her loving sisters **Remedios**, **Milagros**, and **Fe**; nephews, nieces,
relatives and friends request the pious readers
to pray for her eternal repose.
Her remains lie in state at Arlington East, C. Raymundo Road
corner Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig.
Interment will be on Sunday, July 15, 2001
at the Himlayang Pilipino after the 1 p.m. Mass.

FRANCISCO "Paking" CAMBRONERO GALLOFIN

(World War II Veteran)
Jaro, Iloilo City

Peacefully joined our Lord on 08 July, 2001
at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife **Leonisa**; children **Raul**, **Rene & Grace**, **Ruby & Virgilio** and **Ruth**; grandchildren, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in 7th St. Lawaan Village, Balantang, Jaro, Iloilo City.

For the interment schedule, kindly call up (033) 3293401.

In Loving Memory
On the 5th Death Anniversary of

ALFREDO M. VIACRUSIS, SR.

"Mang Johnny"

April 21, 1924 — July 14, 1996
of Olongapo City

Masses will be offered today, Saturday, July 14, 2001 at the following churches:

St. Rita Parish Church
Phil-Am Homes, Quezon City .... 6:30 a.m.
.... 6:00 p.m.
Holy Queen of Apostles Shrine
(Daughters of St. Paul Compound)
2650 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City .... 6:15 a.m.
St. Columban Church
Olongapo City .... 5:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Church
Olongapo City .... 4:00 p.m.

His family, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.

ROSARIO GONZALES DAVID

Peacefully joined her Creator
on July 11, 2001 at the age of 91.

Her children: **Blanche & Bert Gallardo**, **Baby & Freddie Diaz**, **Elvie & Tony David**, **Marita** and **James Anderson**, **Terri** and **Bhoy Munsayac**; grandchildren **Let & Robi Gallardo**, **Cara Gallardo-Smith**, **Myrna & Abet Diaz**, **Ditas & Manny Rubio**, **Liza** and **Steve Santos**, **Pepsi Diaz**; **Jay**, **Tonet** and **Jamie David**; **Teresa Anderson**; **Rhoderic**, **Rhackie**, **Rhodney**, **Rochelle & Rhaymond Munsayac**; great grandchildren **Chris Diaz**, **Rhandell**, **Rhea**, **Rachel Rubio**; **Selene & Michael Santos**, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains rests at Funeraria Paz in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Requiem Mass to be held on Monday, July 16, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.

Interment at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina on July 17, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Former dengue patients not immune to other strains

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

No one is immune to dengue fever, it seems, not even scientists who conduct research on the mosquito-borne disease.

Ronald Matias, Ph. D., did not catch the disease at work. He was on a Lenten vacation in Bicol, where most likely an Aedis aegypti mosquito bit him.

He fell sick shortly after this trip and he immediately consulted a clinician, who recommended lab tests. The doctor suspected a viral infection. The blood sample showed the presence of the dengue virus.

The 41-year-old senior research scientist caught the dengue hemorrhagic fever serotype 2, one of four serotypes of the dengue virus. Fortunately, he lived to tell this tale. He continues to head the dengue research program studies at the St. Luke's Medical Center, the Department of Health's partner in closely monitoring dengue strains.

Matias says he is now immune to dengue type 2. But he is quick to add that by no means is he immune to the other three serotypes.

"That's why it is important to know what serotype and in what particular place dengue is spreading this year. Determining the serotype should be done every year," he stressed.

Serotypes are determined in a lab test. The doctor notes the infection, the manifestations, and then sends samples to laboratories such as Matias' lab.

The troubling trend is that previous victims of dengue are not immune to the new wave of dengue strains invading the country.

According to research by the DOH and St. Luke's Biotechnology, the predominant strain of dengue this year is type 1. Three years ago, it was type 2 and 3.

DOH director for infectious disease Dr. Eric Tayag warned that those who previously had dengue could get sick again, simply because it's a different dengue strain doing the rounds this year.

"We are expecting an increase (in cases) because the strain has changed," he said.

Tayag said that the DOH is monitoring the adolescent age group, which might be especially vulnerable. Tayag also expects the most number of cases to occur in August, which is usually the wettest month of the year.

"This (will happen) if we will not try harder to clean (our surroundings). For those who use tires on their roofs, this is the time to remove accumulated water (in those tires)," he said.

Tayag also expects cases of bleeding and hemmorrhagic fevers. He gave assurances that the DOH is monitoring blood banks to prevent a shortage of blood supply.

From Jan. 1 to July 6 this year there have been 4,474 dengue cases, with 1,151 of the cases occurring in Metro Manila. The next highest number is in Region 7 with 983 cases. Forty-two people have so far died of dengue.

Matias voiced the need for more investments in dengue research and surveillance. The country's dengue surveillance today, he said, involves mostly recording cases in hospitals.

"We have to build the capability to monitor the occurrence of dengue virus and be able to confirm if it is dengue fever, or dengue hemorrhagic fever so that DOH statistics would be accurate," he said.

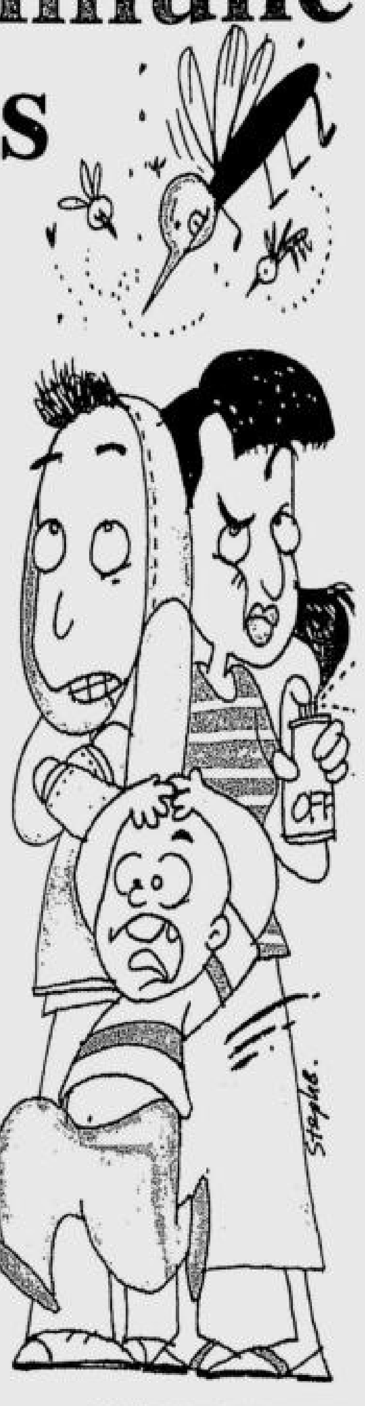

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Science in the 21st century: 25 years of Filipino science

(Second of three parts)

LAST week we gave a preview of the 25th anniversary celebration of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and gave profiles of three plenary speakers from the fields of biochemistry, biotechnology and physics. Another plenary speaker was Benito S. Vergara, a spirited and creative agriculturist whom I have had the great fortune to know. I have him to thank for introducing me to many of the scientists profiled in my most recent work "Ten Outstanding Filipino Scientists." He is also the guiding spirit behind the Philippine Science Heritage Center (PSHC or Salinlahi), a 2,000 square-meter museum that features the wealth of local scientific ingenuity, part of the DOST compound in Bicutan.

Incidentally, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed the PSHC Law in March. The House approved the PSHC bill in October 2000 and the Senate approved it in February 2001. I commend Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the committee of science and technology, who in sponsoring the bill realized that "the Salinlahi is an effective way to motivate and encourage the youth to pursue careers in science." These bills serve as an impetus for the PSHC to promote Filipino contributions to science and technology. The PSHC caters to students, teachers, visitors and the public and continues to document the works, ideas, inventions and products that have had a significant impact on our life. I have written extensively on the PSHC before and I urge everyone to visit it. Exhibits include the C4 rice variety developed by National Scientist Pedro Escuro and now widely used in Asia, the wonder drug Ilosone, a broad spectrum antibiotic discovered in Iloilo soil, and sex reversal technology in tilapia done by Dr. Raffy Guerrero (whom I have had the pleasure of meeting). On display also is the famous Quink (Quisumbing's ink) developed by Dr. Francisco Quisumbing in 1923.

In the conference, Dr. Vergara returned to his first love. He gave a lecture on "A Science Career in Rice."

The other plenary speakers were Dr. Federico M. Macaranas, executive director of the Asian Institute of Management ("Information and Communications Technology"),

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

academician Raul V. Fabella and Dr. Emmanuel S. de Dios of the School of Economics of UP Diliman, who paid tribute to a colleague in their talk "Life, Works, Accomplishments and Contributions of the Late National Scientist Jose Encarnacion Jr."

The long-awaited book "National Scientists of the Philippines (1978-1998)" was finally launched. I commend Ms Luningning Samarita of NAST and Ms Karina Bolasco of Anvil Publishing, who made the publication of the book possible. (I am proud to say that I acted as the bridge between them.) The book is a tribute to our National Scientists, the highest honor given by the government to outstanding local scientists. Our National Scientists must be given credit for setting the directions of scientific inquiry in their areas of endeavor, laying the groundwork for further enrichment in their respective bodies of knowledge and raising our status in the eyes of the international scientific community.

On the second day of the convention, July 12, simultaneous divisional sessions were held revolving around five clusters. For the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences, the speakers were Prof. Charles Pasternak of the Oxford International Biomedical Centre who focused on chemistry; Dr. Ely Anthony Ouano, senior environment specialist of the Asian Development Bank, who talked on waste management; and Dr. Evelyn Rodriguez of the Institute of Chemistry at UP Los Baños, who discussed combinatorial chemistry.

For the biological sciences, the speakers included Clare R. Baltazar, who discussed biological control of specific plant pests; Dr. Asuncion K. Raymundo, director of the Institute of Biological Sciences, who talked on bacteriology; Dr. Alberto T. Barrion of the International Rice Research Institute at Los Baños, who discussed entomology; and Salcedo L. Eduardo, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at UP Los Baños, who talked on veterinary helminthology.

For the social Sciences, the speakers were Fr. John Carroll of the Ateneo de Manila University, Dr. Camar Umpa, president of Mindanao State University, Dr. Ma. Cynthia Rose B. Bautista of UP Diliman and Dr. Leonardo D. de Castro, chair of the Department of Philosophy at UP Diliman, president of the Philippine Health Social Science Association, member of the Unesco International Bioethics Committee and member of the board of the International Association of Bioethics.

For the agricultural sciences, the speakers included Dr. Violeta N. Villegas, director of the Institute of Plant Breeding at UP Los Baños, who focused on biotechnology in local varietal improvement programs; Dr. Tereso A. Abella, Dean of the College of Fisheries of the Central Luzon State University, who talked on the development and commercialization of the Y-Y male tilapia technology; and Dr. Romulo G. Davide of the Department of Plant Pathology at UP Los Baños, who discussed the Farmer-Scientist Program in corn-based production for sustainable agriculture.

For the health sciences, the speakers were Dr. Thelma E. Tupasi-Ramos of the Tropical Disease Foundation in Makati Medical Center, who discussed infectious diseases; Dr. Bernadette Libranda-Ramirez of the National Institutes of Health at UP Manila, who focused on molecular biology and biochemistry; Conrado S. Dayrit of United Laboratories, who talked on cardiovascular and degenerative diseases; and Dr. Enrique Ona, director of the National Kidney Institute, who spoke about advances in surgical sciences.

(To be continued next week)

(*Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for* www.inq7.net *and hosts the show "Fun with Math" on PTV-4. She can be reached at* blessbook @yahoo.com.)

A TRIBUTE TO MANOY

The case of the unbeatable foe

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO,MD

MEDICAL FILES

IT was meant to be a routine executive check-up. Greg, a 56-year-old corporate lawyer from Buhi, Camarines Sur, checked in at the hospital after a dizzying week of work in his law firm, which bears his name. He clutched his newly bought pocketbook that should make good company in the next couple of days as he got all the numerous tests done. There should be nothing serious, he thought. He had the same package of tests two years ago and his doctor, who happens to be his youngest brother, gave him a clean bill of health.

Lately, he had been having a bum stomach with alternating loose bowels and constipation. "Too much spice in my diet, and it must be the extra hot 'Bicol express' my sister Linda gave me," he told the medical resident who interviewed him.

The resident asked a lot of questions to complete his medical history and Greg started to realize that his problem was not as simple and benign as he initially thought it was. He remembered that a few weeks earlier, he had fresh blood in his stools. His appetite had been deserting him lately and he just learned that his weight on admission was 132 lb, down by 15 lb from his previous weight of 147 lb three months ago.

"Ah, the blood in the stools must just be due to hemorrhoids and the loss of weight must be due to the tons of stress my work gives me," Greg told the resident preempting the young doctor's diagnosis.

Battery of tests

In the next couple of days, Greg went though a battery of tests. His brother doctor could not hide his worried expression as he entered the room to explain the results of the tests.

"Manoy, the other tests are okay but we have... ah, some problem..." he stammered as he went on to explain. "We found a tumor in your colon or big intestines, which is already big enough to cause some obstruction. That's why you're constipated."

"Is it cancerous?" Greg asked and he requested his brother to tell him the real score.

"Yes, Manoy, it's highly suspicious of cancer of the colon," he answered. He then proceeded to explain the problem as objectively as he could...

"Colorectal cancer is the second most common type of cancer and second leading cause of cancer death. The incidence begins to rise at age 40 and peaks between 60 and 75. Individuals with a family history of colon cancer, familial polyposis and ulcerative colitis have a higher risk of developing it.

In addition to familial or genetic factors, the diet has been implicated as another contributory factor. The usual patient with colon cancer is a city dweller who eats what some call as the diet of affluence. This diet is typically low in fiber and high in animal protein or red meat, fats and refined carbohydrates such as sugar, candies and chocolates. The risk has been shown to be reduced by a diet high in calcium, vitamin D and vegetables such as cabbage and broccoli. Taking low-dose aspirin every other day also appears to reduce the risk of this cancer.

The symptoms of colon cancer depend on the type, location and extent of the cancer. The right or ascending colon has a large diameter and thin wall; and since its contents are liquid, cancer in this area does not cause obstruction until late in the course of the cancer. Fatigue and weakness from severe anemia may be the patient's only symptoms.

The left or descending colon has a thicker wall and narrower diameter; hence, cancer in this part can obstruct earlier. There can be alternating constipation and frequent bowel movements with small caliber stools, sometimes pencil-like, sometimes goat stool-like. This is usually

GREG Castillo

accompanied by crampy abdominal pains. The feces may be streaked with fresh blood but often, the blood can't be seen and can only be detected by a laboratory test called occult blood determination in the stools. This is an important, simple and inexpensive screening test to detect early colon cancer.

Endoscopy, which is done by inserting an instrument through the anus into the big intestines, is another way of detecting colon cancer. About 65 percent can be seen with a flexible fiber-optic sigmoidoscope. If a polyp or other suspicious lesions are seen, the entire large intestine is examined with a colonoscope, which can reach farther into the colon.

Blood tests can also be helpful in confirming the diagnosis. Levels of carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) are high in 70 percent of cases, which should be significantly reduced after surgery. The CEA level is monitored periodically and a rise in the level again suggests that the cancer has recurred.

The main treatment for colon cancer is surgical removal of the tumor plus a large segment of the involved intestine and the associated lymph nodes. Radiation therapy and chemotherapy may also be needed after surgery to kill or control any residual tumor tissues and increase the chances of survival.

There was what seemed to be an infinite silence after Greg's brother completed his explanation. Greg felt like the roof just caved in on him. Everything was going so well in his life until that very moment.

Lucky guy

Many considered him a very lucky guy. He had a loving and beautiful wife Bellaflor, an equally brilliant lawyer who subsequently became the first lady majority floor leader of Congress; and their marriage was blessed with four children. Their two boys, Joseph Gregson and Jerome Patrick, followed the footsteps of their parents and are now outstanding lawyers themselves. The elder daughter, Joy Arabelle, finished Medicine and trained further in internal medicine and endocrinology in the United States; and Elinore Lindy, the youngest in the family, completed her masters in business at Wharton.

Greg was intellectually blessed and he was always at the top of his class from elementary to law school. Graduating valedictorian at the state university, he achieved the rare feat of also topping what was considered as one of the toughest bar exams in the country's law history. It was no surprise that his rise as an international corporate lawyer was meteoric and at 56, he headed one of the top law firms in the country.

Toughest fight

He has always been known as a fighter winning the toughest corporate battles either in the courtroom or boardroom. Right there and then, he realized he was headed for the toughest fight of his life. This time, he was fighting what many considered as the unbeatable foe, the big C, and he was determined to win it as he had won all his other fights.

Greg was promptly scheduled for surgery. His surgeon, one of the best in the field, tried to resect the cancer as best as science and human skills would allow. It has however spread outside the walls of the big intestines involving already the nodes of the mesenteries. It was like trying to stop a stampeding pack of horses.

Informed of his poor prognosis and that he had probably less than a year to live, Greg would not give up and he was determined to explore all possible options to prove his doctors wrong. Still weak and recovering barely a week after surgery, he went to the United States accompanied by his supportive family and brother-doctor. He underwent chemotherapy and irradiation and, without a word of complaint, endured all the side effects, which would have broken the resolve of weaker men. His hair gradually fell off. He had severe nausea and vomiting, and he had painful mouth sores extending all the way to his throat. Taking even just a sip of clear broth was an agonizing activity.

Coming back home, the chemotherapy was continued by his oncologist (cancer specialist) here monthly for a year. One year after his surgery and after his last course of chemotherapy, his oncologist happily declared that his CT scan and other tests done showed no trace of cancer. Greg's family and colleagues in his law firm had a big celebration.

Greg praised God for his restored health. His weight was back to his ideal body weight and his hair even grew thicker than before he underwent chemotherapy. He resumed his work and he was still doing well after another year, and then after another six months. Two and a half years after he was diagnosed to have advanced cancer of the colon, there was no sign that the cancer was coming back. Greg, the winner, has won another big fight. He has beaten the unbeatable Big C. Every one thought so. Little did they realize that Greg had just won the first few rounds but not the entire match.

Soon after, he started to have severe unrelenting abdominal pains. He was brought back to the United States and tests showed that the cancer cells have practically invaded the entire abdomen. The cancer has apparently come back with a vengeance. Although his doctors advised him that any treatment would be futile at that point, Greg, the eternal fighter, decided that he would die fighting. He was still alive three years and three months after he was diagnosed and he had outlived his doctors' prediction of his expected survival by more than two years. No way that he would give up. He subjected himself to additional chemotherapy and other alternative treatments.

On one beautiful Saturday morning, he woke up early, just at the break of dawn. He clutched his wife's hand and whispered to her, "Thank you for being at my side all this time. Whatever I failed to do for you in this life, I promise to make up in the next life." He then closed his eyes and peacefully rested.

On Greg's epitaph are written the following words: "Here lies a man who dreamed the impossible and fought hard to beat the unbeatable."

We call Greg, Manoy. He was the eldest in our family. He would have been 68 years old today, his birthday. Happy birthday, Manoy!

(*Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T. M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, or e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.*)

ASK THE DENTIST

PAUL R. DE CASTRO, DMD

Good dental habits eliminate bad breath

I RECENTLY had my teeth cleaned by my dentist but instead of it being a 6-month cleaning, the last time I had it done was 2 years ago. I knew I was due because my gums were giving off this bad smell. I am a little frustrated because I am still not satisfied with the way my breath smells. Shouldn't the cleaning take care of my bad breath? Please enlighten me.

Tricia V.

A lot of people like you want fresh breath. It is possible but it requires constant monitoring. Firstly, you must practice good oral hygiene. This entails brushing after every meal, flossing once a day and using an oral irrigator for that thorough home cleaning, especially for fixed bridges.

Secondly, visit the dentist twice a year for professional cleanings. It could be more often upon the recommendation of the dentist if you have gum disease. Thirdly, have your cavities filled.

And lastly, if you have removable dentures, soak them in water with Listerine or a denture tablet like Polident overnight every night. If your denture is over 5 years old, replace it with a new one.

* * *

Your questions are welcome at dentalqs@yahoo.com. The author, a UP College of Dentistry graduate, is a general and cosmetic dentist licensed both here and the United States.

The secondhand smoke case

(Last of two parts)

BUT COPD, either in the form of chronic bronchitis or emphysema, is just as dangerous as lung cancer. Chronic bronchitis produces excess mucus, which causes frequent coughing; while emphysema slowly destroys a person's ability to breathe. Both can disrupt an individual's lifestyle and normal living. In COPD, the small airways in the lungs are obstructed, or get narrower and narrower. Healthy air sacs in the lungs, essential for exchange of oxygen in the blood, break down permanently. When these are destroyed, the lung loses its elasticity, therefore diminishing its surface and the ability of the lung to absorb oxygen. By the time the shortness of breath becomes really bothersome, nearly half of the lung would have been obliterated. Sadly, COPD is rarely reversible. However, if COPD is detected early enough and one stops smoking, significant lung destruction and breathing difficulties will be prevented.

Among nonsmokers, the risk of COPD may be caused by long-term exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) or secondhand smoke. So if you start feeling short of breath, or find yourself coughing up sputum in the morning, don't wait for an attack of severe bronchitis to prod you to see your doctor. See your healthcare provider immediately. Other symptoms of COPD include frequent chest colds, an incessant cough that lingers in between colds and shortness of breath upon exertion.

One major concern about ETS is its adverse effects on children. Children are particularly more vulnerable because: (1) their airways are smaller; (2) they breathe more rapidly than adults, therefore taking in more ETS; and (3) their immune response systems aren't yet fully developed, making them more vulnerable to infections. Aside from being placed at risk for COPD later in life, kids who are exposed to ETS show increased irritability and crankiness; they are more prone to conjunctivitis, sore throats, colds, coughing and wheezing; lung infections and other illnesses (asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia). Don't blame them also if they flank their Math or Science. Children constantly exposed to secondhand smoke and air pollution have been associated with lower intelligent quotients (IQs).

Jay shifted uneasily in his chair, and felt a strong combination of remorse and self-hatred as Dr. Dantes explained the problem. It was like he just got a nasty jolt of electricity, but that was exactly what he needed to convince him to discard his cigarette leather case, lighter and cartons of cigarettes. He has done it several times, but this time, he's determined that it's really for good.

According to experts, being exposed to secondhand smoke all day is equivalent to smoking several sticks of cigarettes a day. For nonsmokers, that may very well be one of the rawest deals they'll get in life; their innocent lungs have to pay for someone else's nicotine vice. And that may be smoking's saddest legacy of all—and a thought smokers may want to ponder on when they light up their next stick. ***Rafael R. Castillo, MD***

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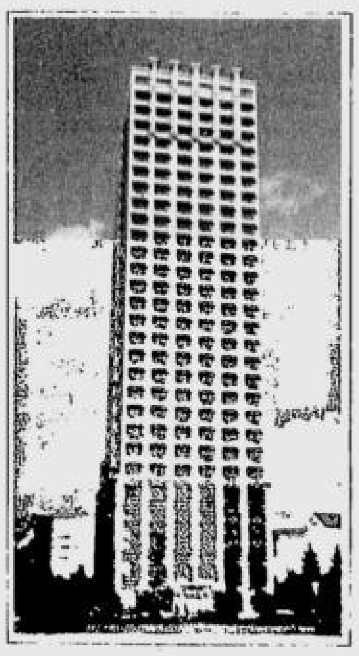

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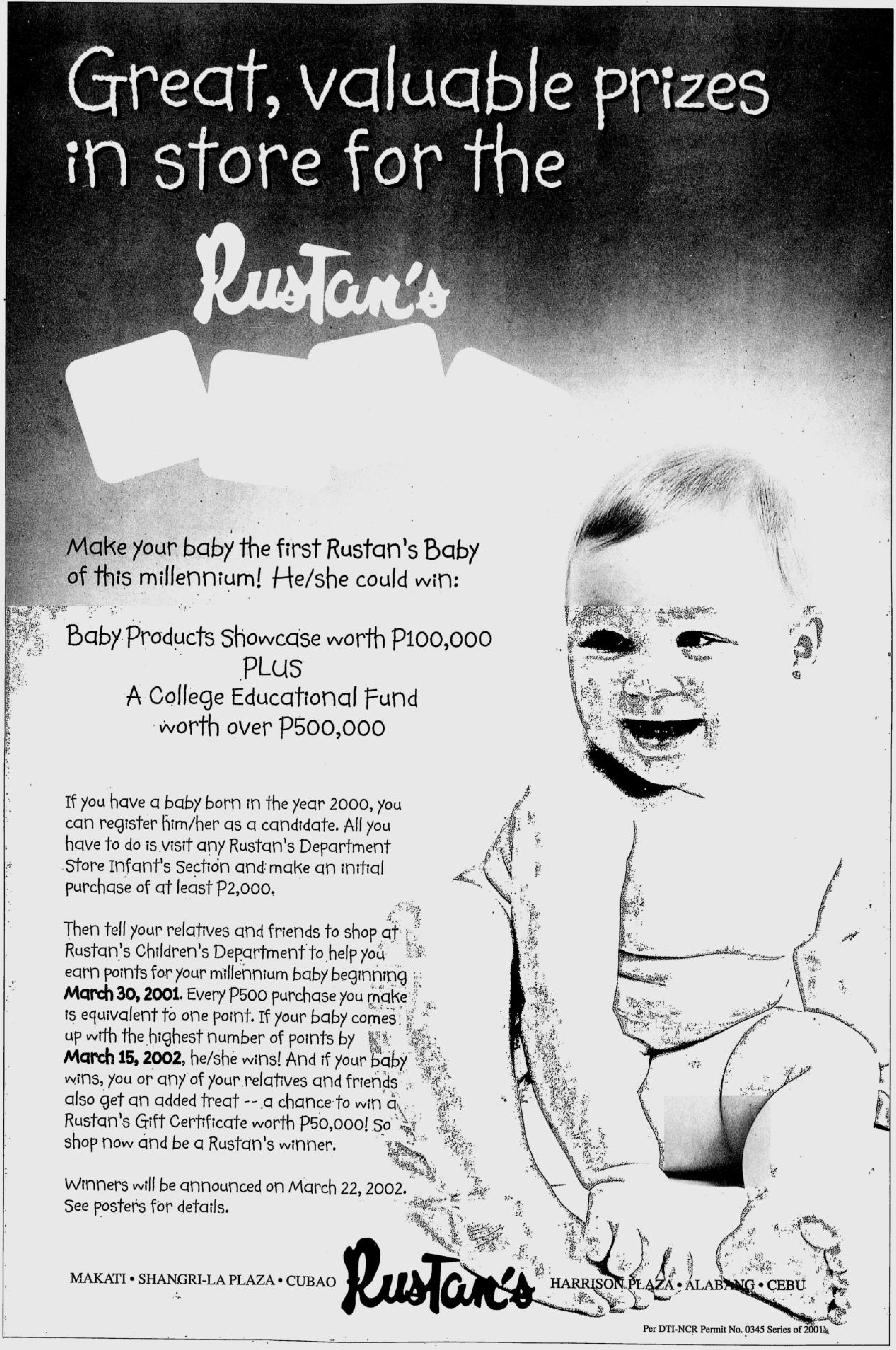

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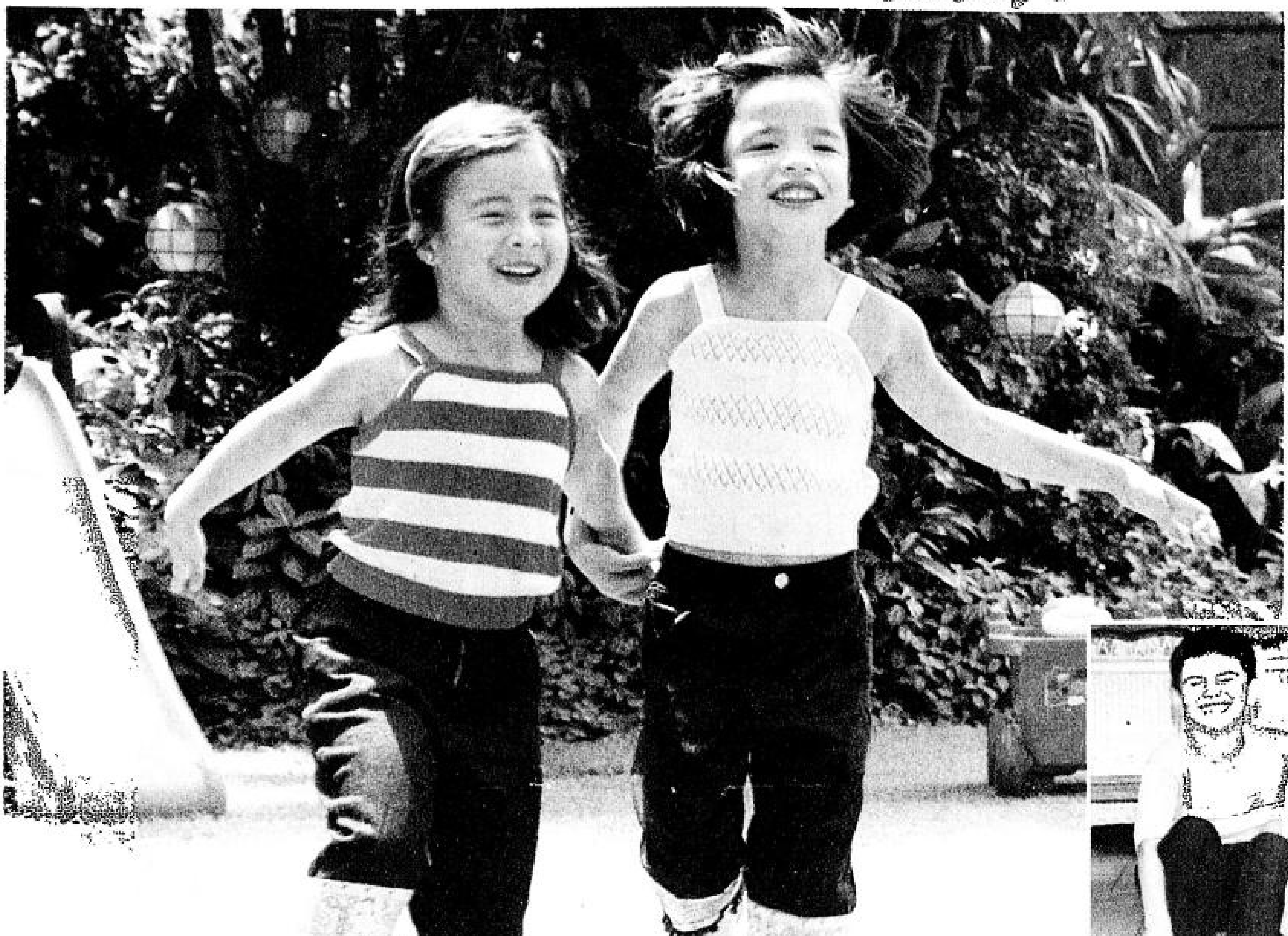
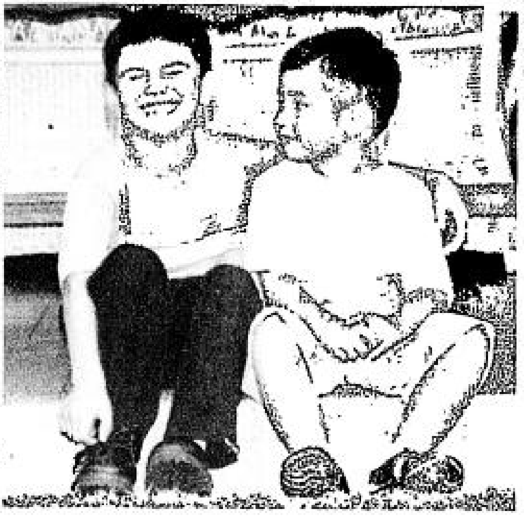
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



MARTIE and Karina are feeling carefree in denim capri pants with an embroidered accent on the hem and cotton knit strappy tops.

BEA is chatting away and wearing a printed cotton smocked dress.



MARCO and Guy David are talking a breather. Mateo is wearing a mint green cotton piqué tee and khaki twill pants. Guy David is in black nylon pants and a striped cotton tee.

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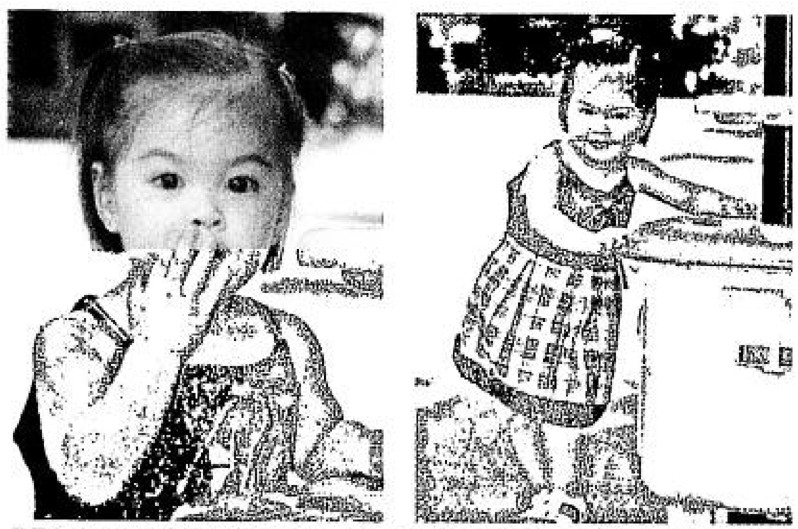


BEA is pretty in her purple cotton piqué party dress with ribbon flowers as an accent.

Great Shopping Tips to Stretch your Child's Clothing Budget

CHILDREN grow rapidly, which calls for constant changes in their wardrobe.

Here are a few tips to stretch that ever-shrinking clothing budget.

1. Start by weeding through your kids closests and drawers. If it doesn't fit, donate it. Clothes that look worn and faded can be saved for painting sessions at home, playing in the mud, etc.

2. Think about the essentials. Preschool five days a week requires a top or two a day. Pants, shorts, skirts and leggings need to go with them. Mix and match work best for an efficient wardrobe. Two new tops with a pair of bottoms gives you two new looks for less money.

3. Let your child tell you what he or she wants and then discuss budget, style, colors, etc. Get them involved because if they don't like it they won't wear it.

4. Think about how the weekends are spent. Children's parties, trips to the mall, trips out of town, etc. Parties do not necessarily require dressing formally as they used to. Comfort is the key.

5. Be wary of fads. Trendy clothing can be expensive and kids tire of them quickly. A few trendy pieces in the closet is okay.

6. Look for quality. There are times when pricier buys turn out to be more economical in the long-term because the style and durability allow the item to be worn many more times then the less expensive item.

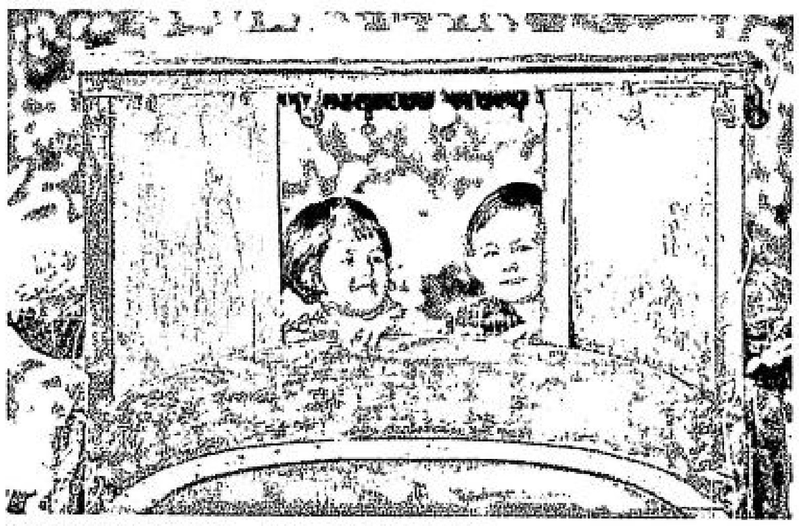
7. Protect your investment. Once your kids find their favorite outfit they will wear it again and again. Make sure you care for their clothes properly.

** Clothes are by the Big & Small Co. with shops located at: Level 4 Shangri-la Plaza, Shaw Blvd. corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City; 2/F Glorietta 2, Ayala Center Makati City; 3/F Expansion Mall, Alabang Town Center; 2/F Phase III, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta Rizal 3/F The Landmark, Ayala Center, Makati City*

READY to go for a spin? Jaime looking handsome in a plaid shirt and khaki shorts while Margarita feels great in white denim bootleg pants and an orange cotton shirt.

READY for some action? CJ is wearing an aqua blue cotton shirt and khaki twill shorts.

MARTIE and Karina enjoying a little tete-a-tete in their matching plaid seer sucker blouses and denim pants.



THE PEEPING pair—Jaime and Margarita

THREE'S a company with Karina, Martie and Margarita. They are in their matching play clothes—denim shorts with floral embroidery in colors that match their strappy cotton tops.

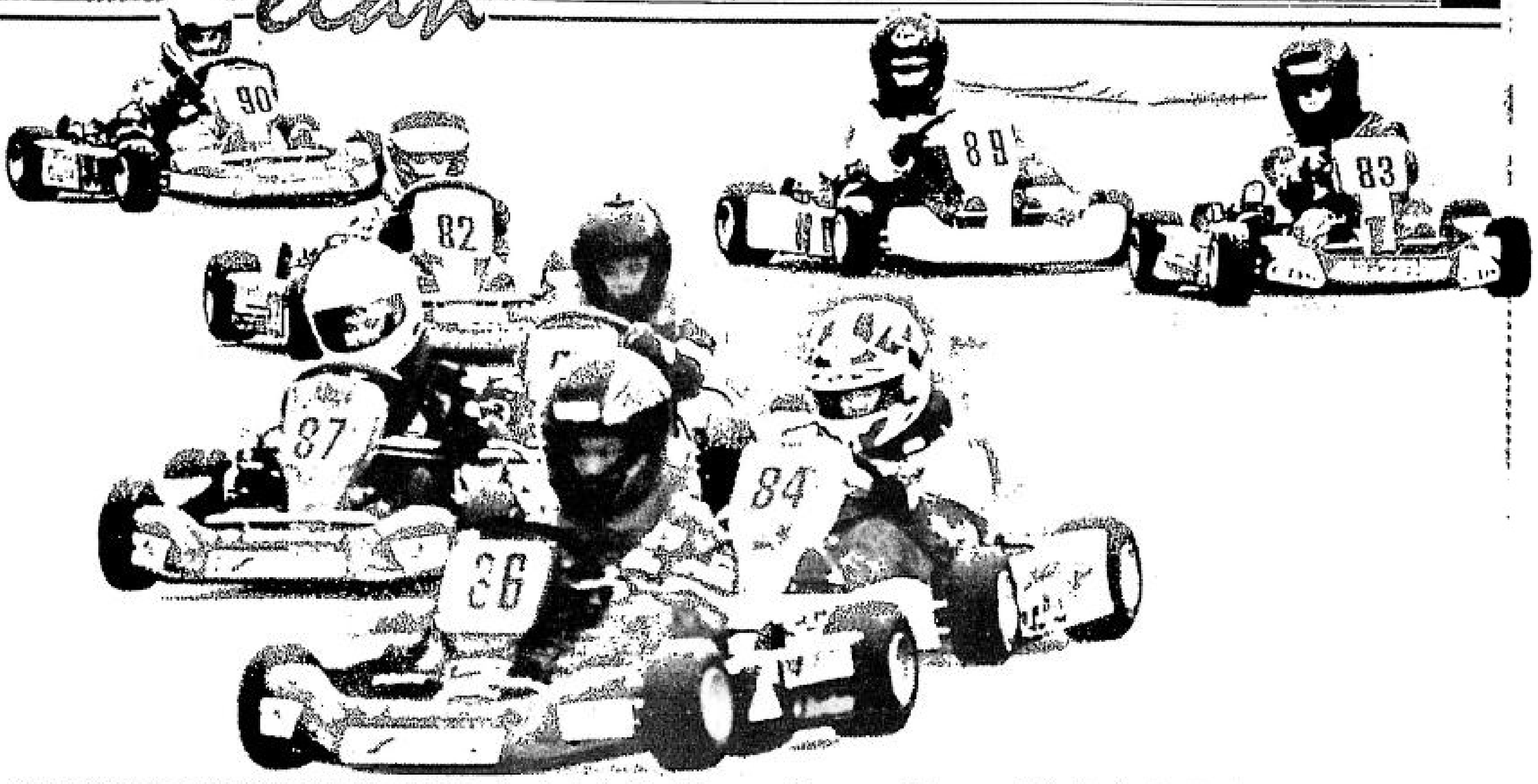
CJ Mateo and Guy David are ready for some fun! All three are in stripe cotton knit tees with matching shorts.

AND the winner is…both boys are in striped cotton tees.

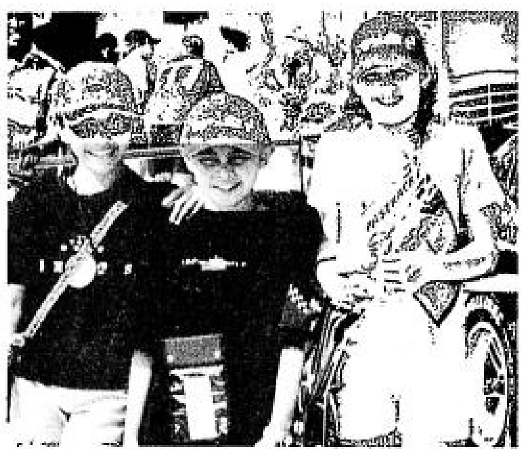
TYKE on a bike and Jaime in a plaid cotton shirt and black denim shorts

PROMENADING under a pink parasol, Karina in a backless printed cotton blouse and white denim pants. Martie is wearing a white strappy tee and pink pants.

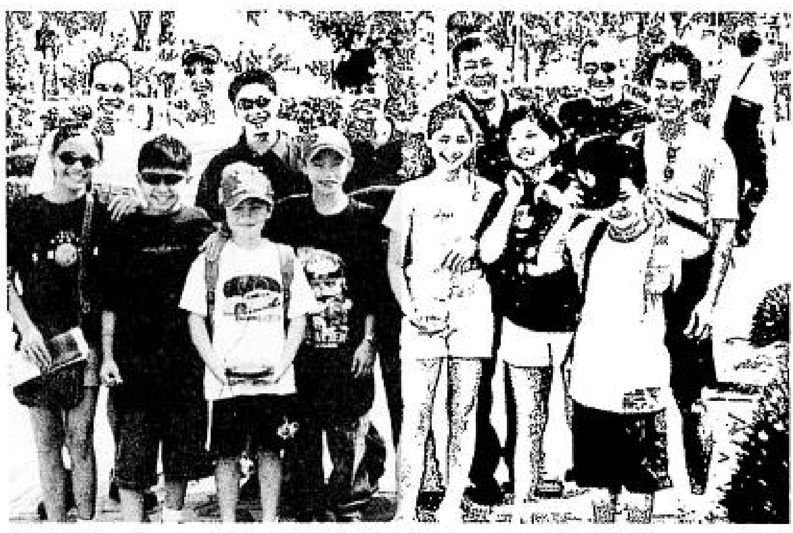
AFTER a successful race at the Carmona Circuit, Marlon Stokinger, Buffy Laurel, Pocholo and Mica Anton, Michelle Bumgarner, Lenjay Paulino, Mark Bumgarner, Tyson Sy and Marty Aguilar.



CADET Karters at the Carmona Circuit Philippines include: Yeoj Marquez, 11 years old; Lorenzo Rijk, 13; Lenjay Paulino, 10; Emil Cayugan, 9; Leonard Ebihara, 9; Buffy Laurel, 11; Ken Monzones, 12; Marlon Stockinger, 10; Marty Aguilar, 11; Tyson Sy, 14; Mark Bumgarner, 10; Michele Bumgarner, 12; Pocholo Anton, 12; and Mica Anton, 13.



MICA and Pocholo Anton with Michele Bumgarner in front of the McLaren Formula 1 car in Malaysia.



AFTER seeing a successful Cadet Kart season, their fathers decided to show them where they'll probably end up in the future—at Sepang, Malaysia Formula 1 Racing Circuit. Front row, L-R: Mica and Pocholo Anton, Mark Bumgarner, Tyson Sy, Michele Bumgarner, Maxinne Ignacio and Marty Aguilar. Behind are the adults, Mike Potenciano, Mike Anton, Ken Sy, Elson Carpio, Mike Aguilar, Lee Bumgarner and Lito Ignacio.

KIDS ON THE FAST LANE

BY EDNA REYNOSO-ANTON

FROM the time they were in the womb, these kids could already hear the roar of racing engines, smell the scent of high-octane fuel, and feel the pulse of their mother skip a few beats as she watched their father race for the ultimate glory of waving the checkered flag.

Home course for these karters is **Johnny Tan's** Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite, where these young daredevils can be seen during practice fixing their engine set-ups and improving their racing lines to clock better times in karts that can go as fast as one hundred kilometers per hour with only an inch clearance from the ground.

Race Day 1 is for qualifying time trials, to get grid positions for the first heat. The day's results give them their grid position for the second heat the following morning. A good finish gives them an advantage for the third and final heat in the afternoon that is the most important event of the weekend. It's the race that decides the first three winners and who gets to bring home the much-coveted trophy.

However, it is not all work for these kids whose ages range from nine to fourteen. In between heats, they play cards, watch television, tell stories, eat or run around while waiting for their turn on the track.

These youngsters have a massive head start on their fathers' careers. From as early as the tender age of five, they already knew the feeling of churned-up-adrenaline-side-by-side racing. Their concentration levels are already unlike those of normal children, because a racer needs maximum focus to drive those 100 kilometer per hour racing monsters. One mental lapse and they know they can get hurt.

It's a dream they are chasing, along with their fathers, to produce the first Filipino Formula 1 driver, and who knows, perhaps a world champion?

WATCHING their favorite driver, Michael Schumacher in action. Top to bottom: Maxinne, Marty, Poch, Tyson, Michele, Mica and Mark.

Rico—A Davao Musical On Street Children

BY FE R. DACUDAO

MOVED by a desire to harness homegrown talents, the LCB Performing Arts Center presented "Rico," Davao's first off-Broadway musical. The show's socially relevant theme on the plight of street children certainly touched the hearts of the viewers. The daily challenges these unfortunate youngsters must face were expressed through the moving compositions of Viva Records' **Rebel Villamor Magdagasang** sung by the array of artists, and the choreography of Davao's diva of dance, **Ms Bing Locsin**.

Rico is a shoeshine boy caught in the web of intrigues and crimes, but emerging as a young hero in the streets of Davao. Played by **Arwin Miguel Bunac** and **Jhon Bernard Hernandez** in separate play dates, "Rico" has awakened compassion for the orphaned, abandoned street children everywhere.

Executive producer **Chin Bon Lu's** dream to create this first-ever musical came into reality with the determination of all the creative personas to exhibit their God-given talents in this single successful endeavor. Ably directed by **Les Merquita** with the rich advisory help of consulting director **Josie Tejada,** "Rico" has manifested the unity of the performing arts circle to deliver a quality production.

Street children everywhere—vending commodities such as fruits, flowers, cigarettes, newspapers, candles, and sweepstakes tickets to eke out a living—aspire to be loved and to belong to homes. These dreams and hopes, marred by frustrations and loneliness, were aptly portrayed in the lyrics and body movements from the songs and dances in "Rico."

Noteworthy were the performances of children **May Mascarinas, Xai Nacionales,** and **Eartha Gladys Sabido,** alternately playing **Teresa, Chiara Ysabel Tolentino, Shannon Soriano, Luise Anne Sabido** as **Cecilia** on different play dates. The challenging role of **Sgt. Ernesto** was played by **Dicky Decena,** while that of the sergeant's lady love **Merci** was played alternately by **Joy Duran** and **Dionila de Asis**. On center stage as Davao City mayor was **Michael Ebro Dakudao,** a seasoned performer. The production boasted of an abundance of talents driven by excellence despite relatively limited training.

The vision of making Davao a city of arts and music took shape with the initital production of "Rico." Inspired by the show's success, the producers will surely consider creating similar shows for the audiences here and in the neighboring areas.

JHON Bernard Hernandez performs with passion the lead role of a homeless shoeshine boy in Davao's original musicale, "Rico."

MICHAEL E. Dakudao, as city mayor, performs in the finale "They are our children, too," a composition of Viva Records' Rebel Magdagasang.

THE ENTIRE cast of "Rico" sings and dances to the "Festival Song."

Fashion's Newest star

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

CRISELDA Lontok

MICHELLE Sison

PATRICE Ramos

RAJO Laurel

PIA Regala-Hebron

THIS July, Manila's fashion world will receive a much needed and rare energy rush as **Rustan's** unveils a new designer to its fold.

This time around, **Rustan's** is launching **Pia Regala-Hebron,** a young, unassuming, mother-to-be, loaded with talent, charm and energy. She has been working and designing for the company for the last 10 years, for the popular labels: **Caravan, Luna** and **Jill.**

Her gala show on July 26 will introduce her as a designer for **Luna,** which she has been designing for since 1997. When asked who the **Luna** woman is, she says, "The **Luna** woman is definitely classic but with a modern edge. She has an eye trained by frequent encounters with good taste, a love of comfort, an aversion to shapes and complicated styles. She is not trendy but has an inclination to gracefulness and an emphasis to femininity."

As her big day approaches, it's interesting to know what a designer feels, what her designs will be like, her forecasts and what the audience should expect. But this time around we changed things a bit. We asked four of the country's leading their thoughts on Pia's work and style as well as tips on what to do and not do.

Everyone knows the Philippine fashion industry and retail scene is a competitive lot, each one creating and designing for the same market To help each other out, is not something on a designer's agenda. Nevertheless in a spirit of camaraderie, they have obliged to an interview. All in support for the next name to watch out for in fashion.

How would you describe Pia's fashion style, work and design skills?

Criselda Lontok: Very updated and practical, wearable and covers a wide range of women's sizes.

Michelle Sison: We attended the same university for undergraduate studies, at UP. **Pia** was very consistent in her manner of dressing. At the University, **Pia** was luminous even if she wasn't wearing white. Her designs are progressive in imagery and consistent in color play. Her silhouettes are classic with modern styling.

Patrice Ramos: **Pia's** fashion style is classic and feminine. Her pieces are the type that will not go out of fashion. She seems to be the type who will not get carried away with trends.

Rajo Laurel: **Pia's** style is all about proper sense and sensibility. It is honest and devoid of unnecessary clutter. She is totally in tune with the feminine aesthetic.She understands what women want.

How do you see her as a person?

Criselda Lontok: She's such an amiable person, considerate and thoughtful. Well-rounded and well-bred.

Michelle Sison: I've known **Pia** and her family, since I was 10 yrs. old, we were neighbors in Bel-Air Village. I remember her favorite sandwich was peanut butter. But then she only savored the edges. We often spent our afternoons stamp painting Gouache and water-color with potatoes wedges that **Tita Carminda,** her mother, carefull carved herself. **Pia** had an eye for soothing color combination. Magnets hanged her paintings in their refrigerator door with cool exuberance.

She always seems calm. Few times that **Pia** would be upset, must be of a reasonable cause.

Patrice Ramos: Very lady-like, soft-spoken... very classy.

Rajo Laurel: As a person she is light and easy to get along with. She's really quite engaging when you strike a conversation with her. In many ways she's an astute observer of the things that surround her...always in tune with and never out of sync.

What would you advise her to do or not to do? (i.e. dealing with suppliers, clients, based on your own experiences.)

Criselda Lontok: Not to rely on mere image (which she would like to project) but to consider saleability as well.

Michelle Sison: Continue doing what she's doing! Her classic attitude in styling is her foundation for 're-visions.' It takes true talent to make what's old look new again.

Patrice Ramos: I hope she would do shows more often. so that more people can become familiar with her style and her label. I think her pieces are easy to sell.

Rajo Laurel: Always have fun! I always try and tell all my colleagues in the industry to never forget to enjoy the work. If it's not fun anymore then we must be doing something wrong.

Neu Woman 2001

PHOTOS BY LITA PUYAT

NEUTROGENA gives credit to women, who have excelled in their chosen field. The award called, **Neu Woman**, is a tribute to Women Achievers. **Neutrogena** believes and acknowledges that the Asian woman has, indeed, achieved and excelled in whatever chosen field she has decided to pursue.

The **Neu Woman** transcends a pretty face. She is one with confidence, style and grace. She is intelligent and makes her own choices. She has chosen a career in which she excels, and she leads a balanced life.

The five **Neu Women** chosen for the Philippines are: author and publisher, **Liana Romulo**; documentarist, **Kara Alikpala**; prima ballerina, **Maritoni Tordesillas**; art and retail consultant, **Ana Buenaventura** and Olympic equestrienne, **Toni Leviste**.

KARA ALIKPALA

Kara has been a producer for ARD German Television and CNN in the last 10 years. She is a multi-awarded documentarist and founding partner of Asian Eye, a production company that produces documentaries and television specials. She is a breast cancer survivor and an anti-cancer crusader. She is president of "I Can Serve" (Information On Breast Cancer and Other Services), a foundation devoted to empowering breast cancer survivors with information and providing special services.

She was executive producer for the ambitious documentary produced for Philippine television, "Batas Militar," based on the dictatorship of the former **President Marcos.** Aired on ABS-CBN, the show provided that documentaries could top rating charts and be commercially viable. It garnered Best TV Special from the CCP Gawad Awards and the Golden Dove awards given by the Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster sa Pilipinas. It was a finalist at the New York Film Festival and at the International Documentary Festival in Amsterdam, the biggest documentary festival in the world.

TONI LEVISTE

The name is synonymous to her success as an equestrienne. Talk to her about horses and her eyes light up. She also speaks passionately about her love for the sport, her love of horses and her desire to share this with the Filipino youth.

Toni Leviste did the country proud by representing the Philippines in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. She was also the second and youngest Southeast Asian rider to qualify and participate at the Olympics. She has also earned the distinction of being the highest-ranked Asian rider, according to the International BCM World Rankings. She is also considered by the Philippine Equestrian Federation as the longest reigning "Philippine Rider of the Year."

ANA BUENAVENTURA

Before graduating in 1990 with an AB degree in Art History from Smith College (Northampton, MA), **Ana** was an intern at Jean Efron Art Consultants in Washington, DC, where she conducted insurance appraisals for artworks purchased by firms and organized client and artists files. She likewise participated in the "Baroque Painters in Italy" exhibit at the Smith College Museum of Art, where she researched biographical material and stylistic characteristics of artists for catalogue entries and didactic labels; and analyzed brushstroke and overpaintings with black light.

LIANA ROMULO

Growing up traveling all over the world exposed publisher and author **Liana Romulo** to a wealth of cultural traditions. She spent her primary school years in Manila, her early teens in Bangkok, her high school years at a boarding school in the United States. By living in these vastly different societies, **Liana** realized the importance of preserving her own Philippine customs and sharing this cultural heritage with others throughout the world.

Motivated by an international upbringing, **Liana** wrote "Filipino Children's Favorite Stories," which launched late last year and is now a bestseller. The book not only documents a part of the Philippine oral tradition but also entertains readers of many nationalities.

She is a granddaughter of **Carlos P. Romulo,** the late Philippine statesman and Pulitzer-prize-winning journalist.

MARITONI TORDESILLAS

Maritoni Tordesillas is considered as one of the country's top ballet dancers. She was a company member of Egleysky Ballet (New York, 1989) and Basel Ballet (Switzerland, 1994-95). From 1990-2000, she was a company member and soloist of the Philippine Ballet Theater, where she performed. She was instructed by **Gelsey Kirkland** and **Cynthia Gregory** of the American Ballet Theater for the role of Kitri in "Don Quixote" and Odette/Odile in "Swan Lake," respectively.

At present, she is the founder, director, teacher and choreographer of Danspace, where the students are taught using the Royal Academy of Dancing Syllabus (UK) and the National Ballet Syllabus of the Philippines.

GUINGONA brothers: (from left) Tito, Louie, Ben,Manie, Joe.

Generations of Guingonas

BY NELINDA (GUINGONA) DIZON FLUECKIGER

THE GUINGONAS were planning a family a reunion. I was tasked to do the job. Halfway through the preparations, my cousin **Bart** asked me why I wanted to do this reunion, what was the purpose of it all? I told him that if we did not know our family, and where we came from, which would help us understand ourselves, how could we expect our people to find our nation and thence the world?

Our reunion started on June 23 at the Tagaytay Highlands. This was the first day of a long-planned reunion culminating on the following Saturday, with schedule dinners in between, hosted by **Louie**, **Joe** and **Ben** on separate days.

The Highlands reunion was the first day that all of us (descendants of **Teopisto Guingona** and **Josefa Tayko**) met in the same place. Everyone was ecstatic but disbelieving at having finally arrived to this gathering of 80-odd: uncles (**Manie, Louie, Tito, Joe** and **Ben**), first cousins and their children. Although many were missing from abroad, it was a joyous occasion. It was an event punctuated only with the fleeting thought of the others, who had gone before us, among them uncles **Effie** and **Eddie**, my mother **Inday**, their spouses and some cousins.

The dinner held on the 26th at Wack-Wack Golf Club was hosted by uncles **Joe** and **Ben**(who are identical twins), with their spouses **Tina** and **Viring**, highlighted by impromptu singing by **Tita Ruthie** and uncles **Louie** and **Ben**. Then on the 28th, a dinner hosted by uncle **Louie**, together with his wife **Jo**, was given at the home of **Susan** and **Marcel Albaracin**. Everyone danced vigorously, including, to our surprise, uncle **Tito** (the Vice President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs.) Dancing for everyone else continued to the wee hours.

The last reunion day was June 30 at the Manila Polo Club. This was the day when the entire **Guingona** clan was to unite under one roof—descendants of **Francisca Jamora** and **Vicente Guingona**, our great grandparents. It started with a mass, and ended with one photo-taking session of all participants. Everyone had joyous greetings for each other in the midst of some confusion as to who was who and who belonged to whom and who was whose child. There was nostalgia for those missing and a lot of reminiscing. Finally, it was time to say goodbye. As uncle **Louie** jokingly said, "I am tired of all these **Guingonas!**" and in the next breath, "When is the next reunion?"

The event was ably organized by **Monsie David**, together with **Susan Albaracin** and **Marivic Guingona**. Throughout both events, we were fortunate enough to have **Bart Guingona** emcee and the invaluable help of other relatives: the four cousins mentioned above, plus (in alphabetical order): **Marites Africa, Fely Bactol, Marivi Dizon, Becy Fuentes, Arlene Guingona, Benjie and Dorcie Guingona, Joe** and **Tina Guingona, Jojo Guingona, Rolly Guingona, TG Guingona III, Marie Lamb, Linda Ledesma, Baby** and **Quintin Montero, Hope Roxas, Maricris Urbano** and special mention, **Manang Linda**.

NOW, follow me!

FROM left are Bong Guingona, Milton Flueckiger, Rolly Guingona

THE AUTHOR with Vice President Teofisto Guingona

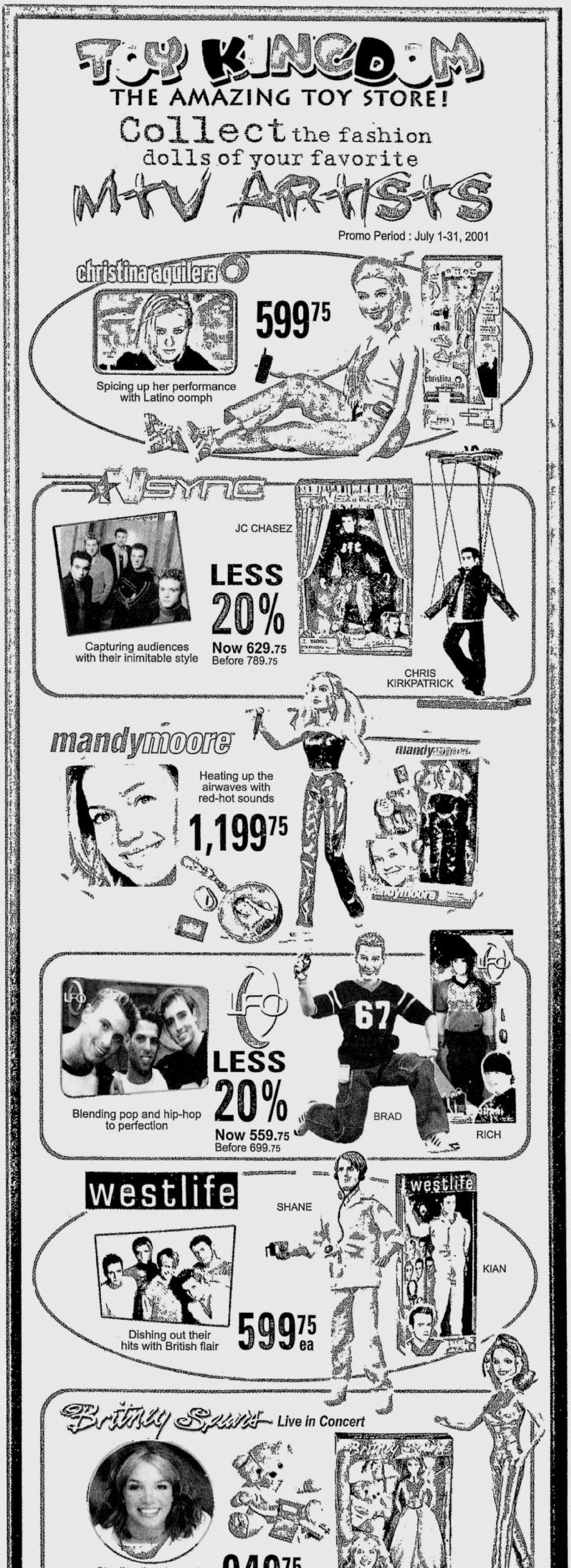
MILAGROS Batitang and sons with Claudette Batitang

ANDY Fuentes, J. Fuentes, TG III and kids

GREAT-GREAT grandchildren

FIRST cousins, and Grandchildren of Teofisto Guingona, and Josefa Trayko

ALL first cousins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Why Wear Glasses?

BY DYORDS JAVIER

I USED to wear eyeglasses from the time I wake up till the moment before I sleep.

I am informed by my opthalmologist that I have myopia and need 275/225—grade lenses for my "old" eyes. In July 2000, she prescribed reading lenses, which I obediently and expediently purchased (expensive!). At age 47, she says I am lucky to have stronger-than-normal eyes. Age 40 would have been the ripe period for the occurence of "presbyopia"—that's when one starts to adjust the distance when reading that comes with difficulty in focusing and need for squinting. I also would not drive without my glasses on. It was then an already long accepted "Facial Innovative Technological Enhancement" procedure for me to be using graded lenses almost the entire day. I was also diagnosed to have astigmatism. It has then become difficult for me to drive at night without wearing my contact lenses and my reading lenses together, as I needed the contacts to see far, and the reading lenses to read the speedometer.

One night, I forgot to wear my contacts—I had to wear my reading glasses over my regular eyeglasses while driving. Funny as it was, I still felt ridiculous—and more so not being paid for the comic bit! Watching TV likewise became strenuous from a normal distance without my glasses on.

All this was the "bleak" eye scenario for me before August 2000.

It was on this same month that I took this 'See Without Glasses' seminar, which prescribed exercises to correct eye problems. Beginning August 26 until late November of the same year, I would do the Palming, the Tibetan Wheel and 'Sunning' exercises for at least three times each day. Although the first two exercises would cause perspiration over my eye sockets, arms and elbows (even while doing this in an air-conditioned room), I would feel very relaxed and a bit energized after each 20-minute cycle.

LEO Angart, demonsrating eye exercises.

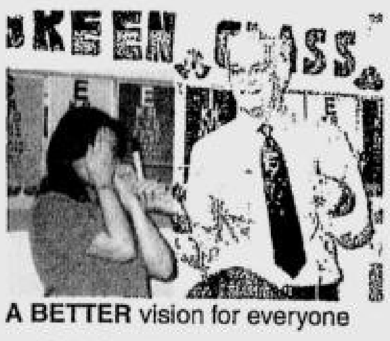
Since then I have not put on my contact lenses at all and have never found any need for my glasses except when driving at night for long distances. Even as I have stopped doing the exercises since November. Night city driving no longer requires use of my glasses. The more significant development is I no longer have any use for my reading glasses. For such a useless expense, I have used them only twice since buying them. My ophthalmologist describes this as improved "accommodation" in my eyes.

These days, I would only put on my glasses watching TV basketball only to read the tiny scorecard at the corner of the screen. Otherwise, I find no other good reason to still be using these spectacles at all. My vision has improved to a considerably comfortable level.

I am not one who is fond of taking seminars but I would choose always to take time to learn solutions that are "natural"—organic, if you will. The exercises given are simple and convenient. And doable anytime and anywhere.

The philosophy is commonsensical. Of course, for anything to be successful, self-discipline and determination remain two ingredients self-imposed and hardly ever taught.

I share all these as I believe everyone was born to have the natural gift of a clear eyesight. Great technological advancements have not only caused the destruction and deterioration of natural capabilities within and around us, it has now purposefully overlooked the age-old imperative to harness our most natural inner strengths and qualities. Sometimes much to the detriment of an entire planet, most of the time the cunning annihilation of a simple concept. Eye deterioration is one aspect of our lives fueled by this irresponsible proliferation of new millennium medical manipulation. It may be a good time to look closer into our eyes and rediscover what we have available within to keep them from further evolving into oblivious uselessness and 'dysfunction.' Or just simply to keep them well or as good as they were when given the first time. For at the end of the day, it is inner-strength which pulls one through and redefines betterment—if not for the quality of our lives, perhaps even just for the quality of our eyes.



A BETTER vision for everyone

("Vision: The Mind Side" will be offered in Manila on July 21-22, 2001. Fee is P4,000.00. To receive more information or make reservations, contact Maurice or Monika Cruz at NLP Philippines Inc. at 890 6086 or e-mail at maurice@i-manila.com.ph.*)*

You Are Your Child's Most Important Teacher

EXCERPTS FROM "THE EDUCATED CHILD" BY WILLIAM J. BENNETT

THERE is an old saying that a parent's heart is the child's schoolroom. Your dreams, your efforts, your examples and loving exhortations—these set the boundaries of your child's education.

The pressures of time, work and competing interests tempt us to hand more and more of our educational responsibilities to others. You must resist these temptations. For good or ill, you are always your child's most influential teacher. Even when he reaches school age, you are still the dean-at-home, the chief academic officer. The more involved you are, the better your child's chances of getting a good education. If you begin to remove yourself from the learning process, those chances start to plummet. If you turn over your most important responsibilities to others, you may doom his school career. You need to be in charge of your child's education. So take charge.

Several critical elements can come only from you. First among these is your love. One indispensable condition for a child's successful upbringing is that at least one adult must have a deep and irrational attachment to him. In other words, someone must be absolutely crazy about that child. Children are put on this earth to be loved. They need unconditional love and not unconditional approval.

Your attitude about education is another key predictor of academic success. Your child looks to you for cues about what is important in life. He is always watching for your approval or disapproval, for your interest or indifference. If you care, he cares. If he sees that you value learning, he will probably do the same.

Instilling the highest ideals is crucial—belief in the value of hard. A strong sense of responsibility. A willingness to keep trying until success finally comes. Respect for legitimate authority. Such traits are the engines that power learning at school, in college, and in life.

Your expectations are all important. Children strive to clear the bars that their parents set. So long as those standards are fair and reasonable, they help kids flourish. Parents' expectations determine that their children finish homework on time and study for tests.

Good students usually come from homes, where moms and dads have tried to create a rich learning environment. They've stimulated their children's curiosity by showing that the world is a fascinating place and helping them explore it. This does not require you to spend lots of money or have a degree in education.

Know what your child is doing—where he is, who his friends are, what books he reads, what movies he sees. Keep track of schoolwork—what he is learning, whether he's finishing his assignments, if he's prepared for that upcoming test. The parents of good students keep an eye on what the school teaches. They have a sense of the expectations it maintains, the discipline it requires.

Faith is a crucial part of education. Believing that children are moral and spiritual beings, they want their loved ones to be educated in a way that reflects those beliefs. Bear in mind that religious training can help young people become better students.

National Book Store Celebrates The Children's Book Month

EVERY third Tuesday of July, the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) celebrates the National Children's Day with a whole week of activities geared towards promoting children's literature and the value of reading for the whole family.

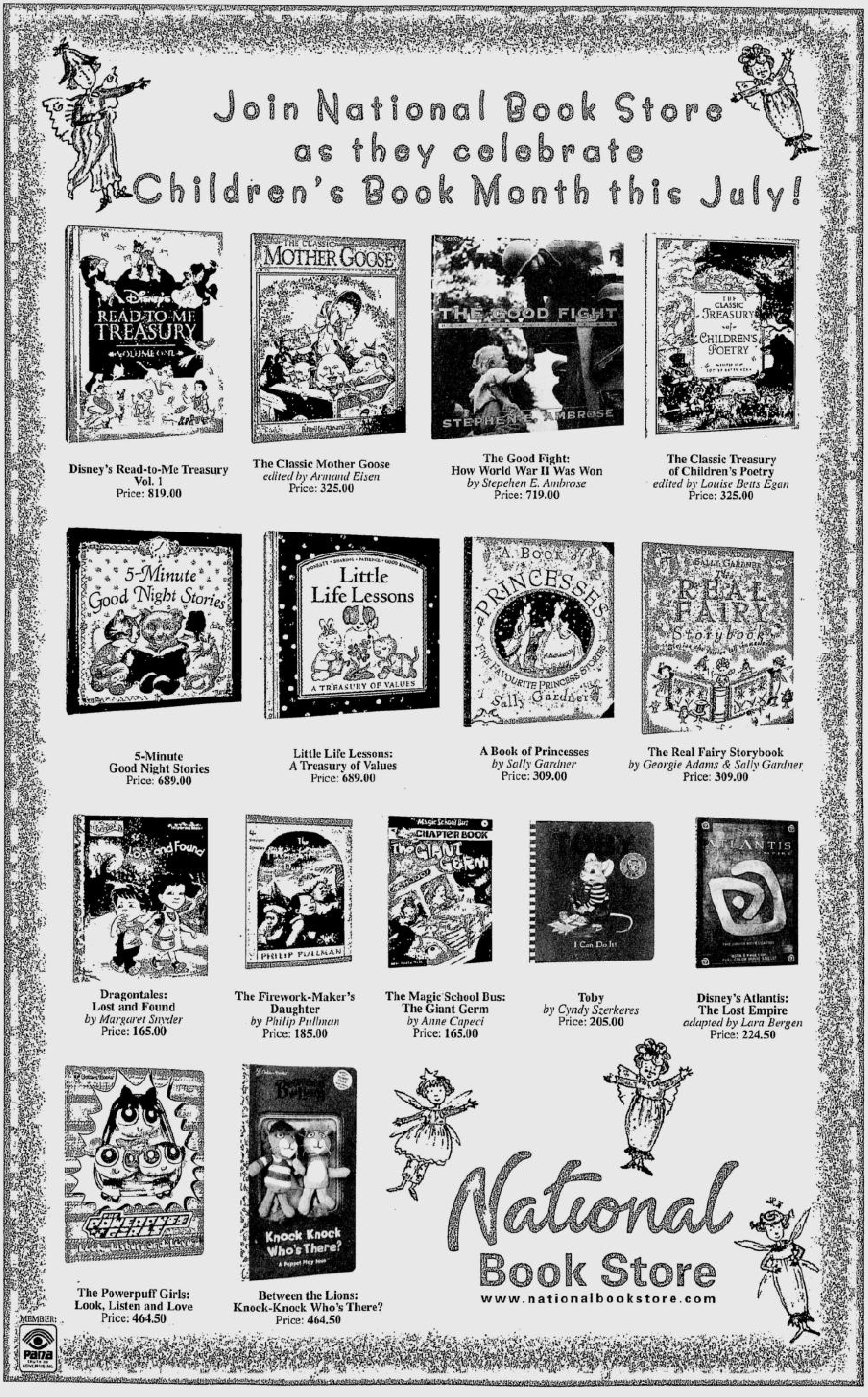
National Book Store, a supporter of these same objectives, is now on its second year in celebrating the Children's Book Month. July at National Book Store marks a whole month of festivities to make reading fun and enjoyable for kids through storytelling parties, great book discounts and exciting promotions.

This year, National Book Store introduces Miffy, a picture book character recommended for kids ages 0-6 years old. Miffy's line of educational board books was created by artist-storyteller Dick Bruna. For all the weekends of July, kids get a chance to interact with Miffy through Meet and Greet sessions and storytelling book parties.

On the other hand, older kids who are movie buffs can enjoy up to 30 percent discount for selected Golden Books titles with movie tie-ins like Mulan, Toy Story, Bug's Life, Dalmatians and a lot more; while Powerpuff fanatics can join an exciting raffle promo for a chance to win a Trendmaster Powerpuff plush toy.

National Book Store also believes that parents are our kids' first teachers, and its primary partner in realizing the ultimate goal of making reading a lifelong habit for our children. Thus, National Book Store has chosen William Bennett, author of best-selling parenting books, "The Educated Child," "The Book of Virtues" and "The Moral Compass," as its Author of the Month.

So, join National Book Store this July as they celebrate Children's Book Month with stories, discounts and lots more!


Join National Book Store as they celebrate Children's Book Month this July!

Disney's Read-to-Me Treasury Vol. 1
Price: 819.00

The Classic Mother Goose
edited by Armand Eisen
Price: 325.00

The Good Fight: How World War II Was Won
by Stepehen E. Ambrose
Price: 719.00

The Classic Treasury of Children's Poetry
edited by Louise Betts Egan
Price: 325.00

5-Minute Good Night Stories
Price: 689.00

Little Life Lessons: A Treasury of Values
Price: 689.00

A Book of Princesses
by Sally Gardner
Price: 309.00

The Real Fairy Storybook
by Georgie Adams & Sally Gardner
Price: 309.00

Dragontales: Lost and Found
by Margaret Snyder
Price: 165.00

The Firework-Maker's Daughter
by Philip Pullman
Price: 185.00

The Magic School Bus: The Giant Germ
by Anne Capeci
Price: 165.00

Toby
by Cyndy Szerkeres
Price: 205.00

Disney's Atlantis: The Lost Empire
adapted by Lara Bergen
Price: 224.50

The Powerpuff Girls: Look, Listen and Love
Price: 464.50

Between the Lions: Knock-Knock Who's There?
Price: 464.50

National Book Store
www.nationalbookstore.com

MEMBER: Pana

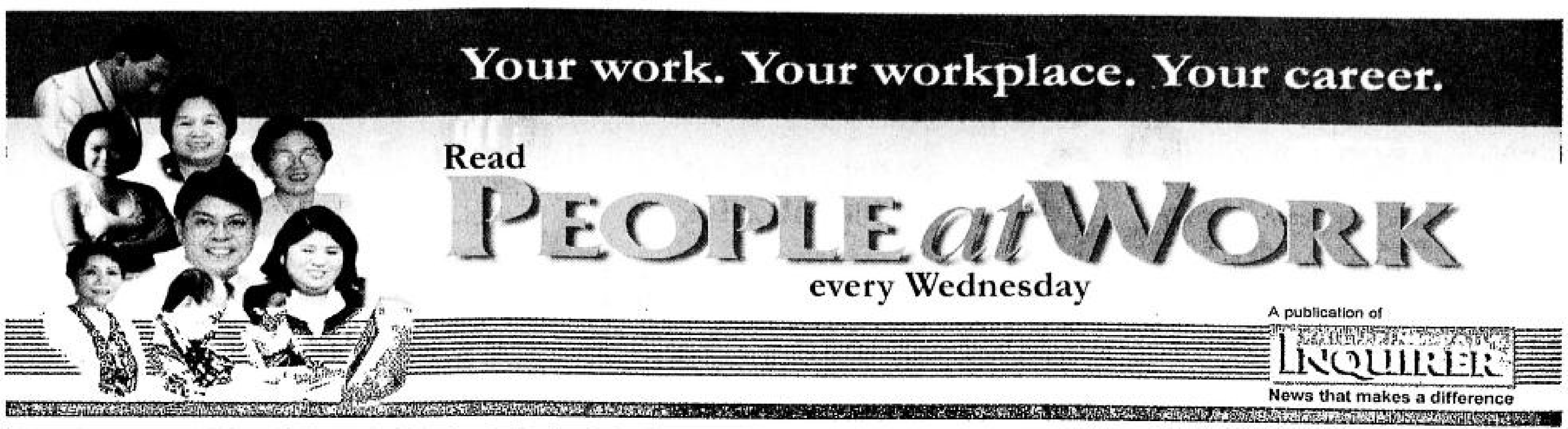
Nutritious For Kids

HOPIA and *tikoy*. Though these have always been part of the Chinese culture, they still have found their way to the Filipino table. *Hopia Ube* and *Tikoy Ube*, which was invented by Chinatown's pride **Gerry Chua**, who is also known as Mr. Ube.

Though *hopia* and *tikoy* are common food products, these are usually bought from Chinese bakeries only. But since the invention of Ube-flavor Hopia and *Ube Tikoy*, the market for these products suddenly opened and paved the way for more people to have a taste of these yummy products. Since then, they have gained steady patronage not only to Chinese and Filipino consumers but also has found their market in US, Guam, Japan, Italy and the Middle East, as well.

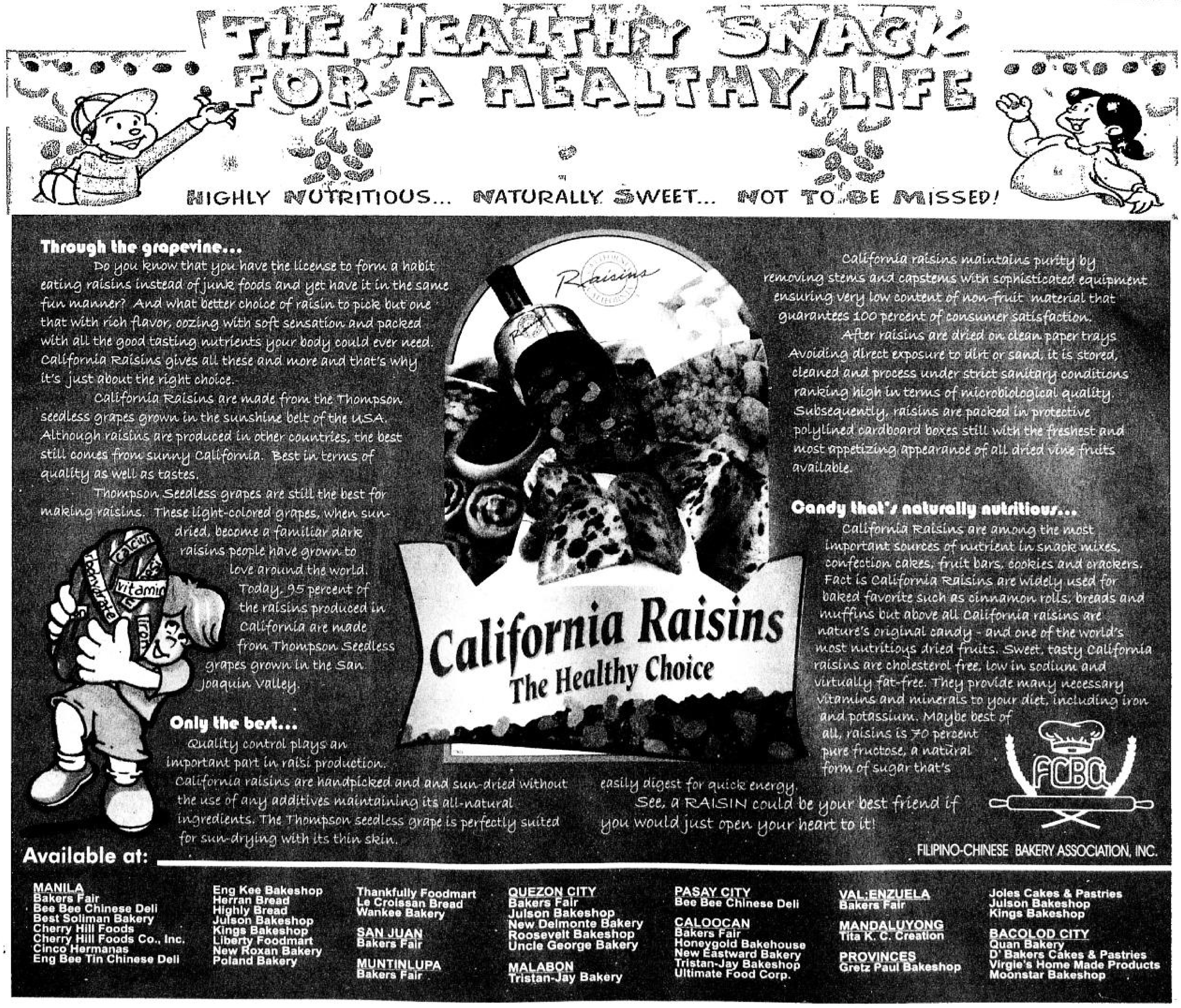
Aside from *Hopia Ube*, Eng Bee Tin Chinese Deli produces other flavors such as *Mongo Baboy* (Wintermelon), Red Beans and its latest offering, *Hopia Piña* (Hi-Fibered). Eng Bee Tin Chinese Deli also offers a wide range of *tikoy* such as Ube Red Beans, 8 Treasure, White Sugar and Brown Sugar.

Labeled Eng Bee Tin Chinese Delicacies, these food products pursue the highest grade of ingredients, suited for health-conscious individuals. It has also earned the distinction of having an unmatched taste and unparalleled nutritive value. Surely, consumers would get his money's worth.



Your work. Your workplace. Your career.
Read PEOPLE at WORK every Wednesday
A publication of INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

At the Children's Accessories Department
Rain Rain, Go Away!
Rainbreaker pals to keep you snug and dry
We've got it all for you! SM DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU



THE HEALTHY SNACK FOR A HEALTHY LIFE
HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS... NATURALLY SWEET... NOT TO BE MISSED!

Through the grapevine...
Do you know that you have the license to form a habit eating raisins instead of junk foods and yet have it in the same fun manner? And what better choice of raisin to pick but one that with rich flavor, oozing with soft sensation and packed with all the good tasting nutrients your body could ever need. California Raisins gives all these and more and that's why it's just about the right choice.
California Raisins are made from the Thompson seedless grapes grown in the sunshine belt of the USA. Although raisins are produced in other countries, the best still comes from sunny California. Best in terms of quality as well as tastes.
Thompson Seedless grapes are still the best for making raisins. These light-colored grapes, when sun-dried, become a familiar dark raisins people have grown to love around the world. Today, 95 percent of the raisins produced in California are made from Thompson Seedless grapes grown in the San Joaquin Valley.

Only the best...
Quality control plays an important part in raisi production. California raisins are handpicked and and sun-dried without the use of any additives maintaining its all-natural ingredients. The Thompson seedless grape is perfectly suited for sun-drying with its thin skin.
California raisins maintains purity by removing stems and capstems with sophisticated equipment ensuring very low content of non-fruit material that guarantees 100 percent of consumer satisfaction.
After raisins are dried on clean paper trays Avoiding direct exposure to dirt or sand, it is stored, cleaned and process under strict sanitary conditions ranking high in terms of microbiological quality. Subsequently, raisins are packed in protective polylined cardboard boxes still with the freshest and most appetizing appearance of all dried vine fruits available.

Candy that's naturally nutritious...
California Raisins are among the most important sources of nutrient in snack mixes, confection cakes, fruit bars, cookies and crackers. Fact is California Raisins are widely used for baked favorite such as cinnamon rolls, breads and muffins but above all California raisins are nature's original candy - and one of the world's most nutritious dried fruits. Sweet, tasty California raisins are cholesterol free, low in sodium and virtually fat-free. They provide many necessary vitamins and minerals to your diet, including iron and potassium. Maybe best of all, raisins is 70 percent pure fructose, a natural form of sugar that's easily digest for quick energy.
See, a RAISIN could be your best friend if you would just open your heart to it!

California Raisins The Healthy Choice
FCBQ
FILIPINO-CHINESE BAKERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Available at:

MANILA
Bakers Fair
Bee Bee Chinese Deli
Best Soliman Bakery
Cherry Hill Foods
Cherry Hill Foods Co., Inc.
Cinco Hermanas
Eng Bee Tin Chinese Deli
Eng Kee Bakeshop
Herran Bread
Highly Bread
Julson Bakeshop
Kings Bakeshop
Liberty Foodmart
New Roxan Bakery
Poland Bakery
Thankfully Foodmart
Le Croissan Bread
Wankee Bakery

SAN JUAN
Bakers Fair

MUNTINLUPA
Bakers Fair

QUEZON CITY
Bakers Fair
Julson Bakeshop
New Delmonte Bakery
Roosevelt Bakeshop
Uncle George Bakery

MALABON
Tristan-Jay Bakery

PASAY CITY
Bee Bee Chinese Deli

CALOOCAN
Bakers Fair
Honeygold Bakehouse
New Eastward Bakery
Tristan-Jay Bakeshop
Ultimate Food Corp.

VAL;ENZUELA
Bakers Fair

MANDALUYONG
Tita K. C. Creation

PROVINCES
Gretz Paul Bakeshop
Joles Cakes & Pastries
Julson Bakeshop
Kings Bakeshop

BACOLOD CITY
Quan Bakery
D' Bakers Cakes & Pastries
Virgie's Home Made Products
Moonstar Bakeshop

Avon Teen Trend School Zone Collection

BE a class act on campus! Pump up your wardrobe with exciting fashion pieces from the Avon Teen Trend School Zone Collection.

Stand out with outstanding outfits like the Relaxed-Fit Twill pants, Striped Ragian Top, Knee-length Skrit, Cross Strap Slides, Printed Crewneck Top and Graphic Tee. Boys can be the bomb in School Zone Collection's Sporty Shirt and the Unisex Tee. The collection also features a Mini Mailbag for your school stuff. The great news is that you can avail of a special 2-in-2 Wallet and Cellphone Case for only P299 when you buy P450-worth of selected Avon teen products for the month of July 2001.

Avon Teen Trend School Zone Collection is available this July 2001 through the Avon Ladies nationwide.

AVON COOL BLUES UMBRELLA

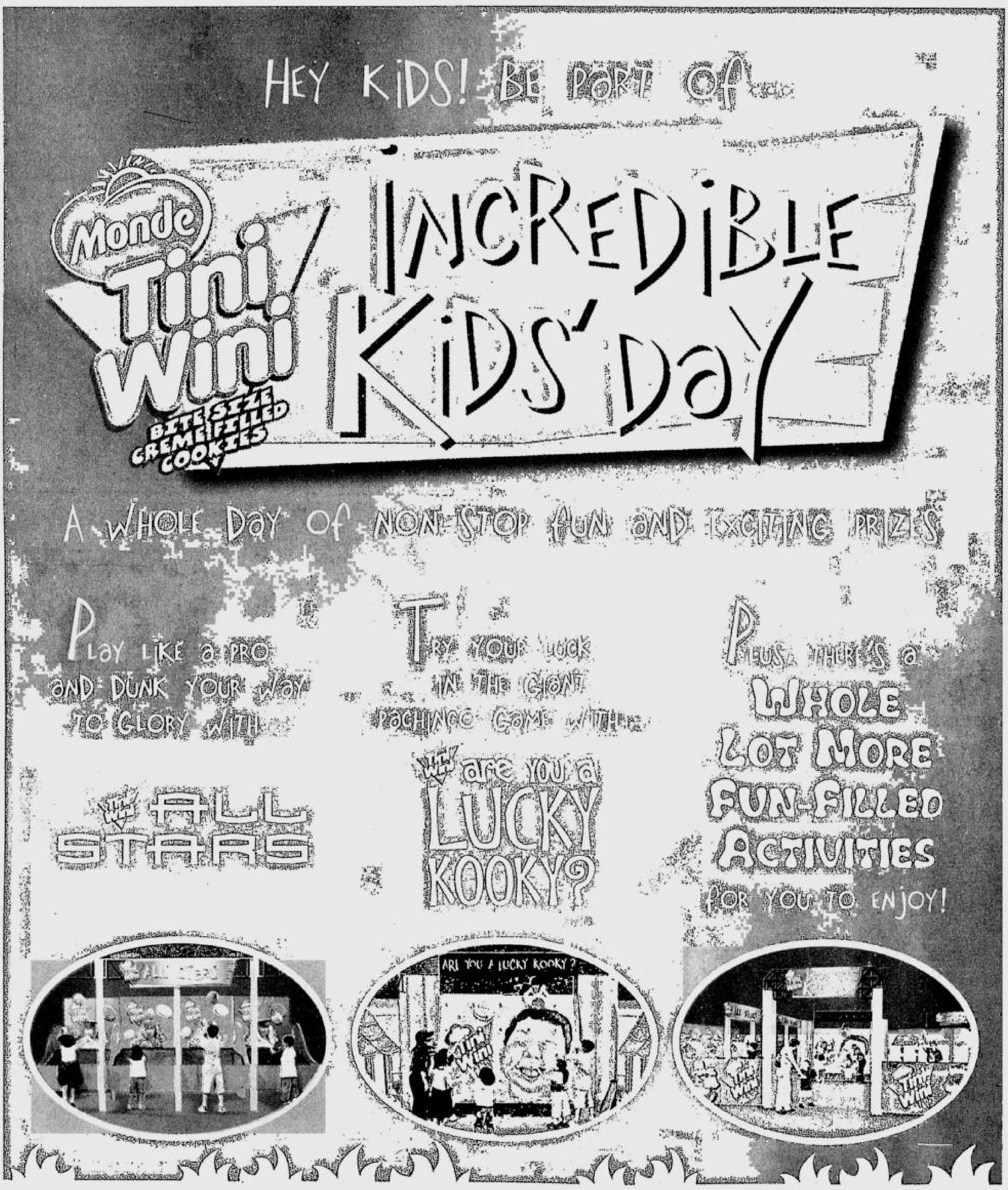
Summer is officially over and now comes the rainy season. Welcome the wet months with the newest and coolest umbrella this side of town—the Avon Cool Blues Umbrella. Truly a great catch for only P99 when you buy P500-worth of Avon Cosmetics, Fragrance and Toiletry products. This special product offer is available this July from Avon ladies nationwide. Go grab your Cool Blues Umbrella now and sing and strut your way in the rain.

For A Fair Lady

SCHOOL is the best time to show off a better looking you as you strut your way in campus!

Let your natural beauty bloom all the more with just the right kind of makeup. Avon Teen Colors is exactly what a pretty girl like you is looking for! Keep your face looking fresh and shine-free with Avon Teen Colors Face Powder in Whimsy Pink, Light Blush, Oh So Natural and Pure White. Liven up your lips with Teen Colors Lipstick in very teen-friendly shades of Caramel twist, Sugar N' Spice, Sweet Berry, Pretty in Pink, Ginger Snap, Girl Power, First Kiss, Young Love and Choco Loco. There's also Teen Colors Lip Shine in Bubble Gum Flavor to prevent lips from going dry and chapped. Finally, there's Teen Colors Clear Mascara to make your lashes look fuller. This is also great for keeping your eyebrows neat and groomed.

In celebration of the new school year, Avon is offering a special beauty survival kit especially for you—the Teen Colors Essential Kit. You can get a TC Lipstick Face Powder and Lip Shine for only P279. As a special bonus, this offer comes with a free Teen Colors Essential Case, which you can use as a makeup kit, pencil or toiletry case.


HEY KIDS! BE PART OF...
Monde
Tini Wini
BITE SIZE CREME FILLED COOKIES
INCREDIBLE KIDS' DAY
A WHOLE DAY OF NON-STOP FUN AND EXCITING PRIZES
PLAY LIKE A PRO AND DUNK YOUR WAY TO GLORY WITH
THE ALL STARS
TRY YOUR LUCK IN THE GIANT PACHINKO GAME WITH THE
ARE YOU A LUCKY KOOKY?
PLUS, THERE'S A WHOLE LOT MORE FUN-FILLED ACTIVITIES FOR YOU TO ENJOY!
ARE YOU A LUCKY KOOKY?

HOOK UP WITH THE INCREDIBLE BUNCH IN THESE HIP AND HAPPENIN' PLACES:

July 14 - 15, 2001	Festival Supermall
July 21 - 22, 2001	Robinson's Ermita
July 28 - 29, 2001	SM City Bacoor
Aug 18 - 19, 2001	G-Mall Davao
Sep 1 - 2, 2001	SM City North Edsa
Sep 8 - 9, 2001	SM City Cebu
Sep 22 - 23, 2001	SM City Fairview

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Monde
Tini Wini

Enjoy the same munching goodness with the new price crunch!

Now only P4.95*

*Suggested Retail Price

Fun, games and surprises!

TAKE your kids on a weekend they won't soon forget. Treat them to Mode Tini Wini's "Incredible Kid's Day," happening at a mall near you. "Incredible Kid's Day" promises to be a day of non-stop fun and games, as well as exciting prizes and surprises.

To participate in the event, you only have to simply buy for packs of Tini Wini Bite Size Crème Filled Cookies for only P20 at the entrance of the Tini Wini play area. The purchase entitles your child with their very own Incredible Kid fun tag and access in all the booths.

All the booths present a mix of entertainment, education and imagination. Your kid will surely enjoy attractions like the Tini Wini All-Stars, the Tini Wini Faces and the Tini Wini Kreations.

The Tini Wini Tales booth fuels and feeds tour kid's imagination. A storyteller not only tells the story but also draws the story as it happens. Children will be asked to take part in the making of the story.

The Tini Wini Wire Maze booth is out to test your child' dexterity. It is a take-off from the popular party game, wherein the participant uses a hand piece and takes it from one point of a convoluted wire to the other—without touching the wire.

Souvenir shots come courtesy of the Tini Wini Smiles booth. It's a fun photo opportunity with Tini Wini mascots Choco Hippo and Nutty Ally. Bring home a Polaroid photo from Photokina for only P25.

It's all good and wholesome fun here. If the "Incredible Kid's Day" is something to look forward to, then guess what more Tini Wini has in store for you and your kids. Tini Wini is now only P4.95, with still the same munching goodness everybody has come to love. So visit your nearest supermarket. Now you can tuck in more Tini Wini into your kid's lunch boxes. With the return of the school season, Tini Wini is the favorite *baon* to bring and enjoy. After all, Tini Wini is the mini-cookie for the very kooky.

COOKIES 'N CREAM!

FROM left are Marissa Valencia del Rosario, Catherine, and Charito Padua

LINDA Liboro

FROM left are Wendy Lopez, Claudia Bermudez, and Linda Lopez

PACHING Batistucci and Sandra Batistucci Lopez

COUSINS-TO-BE Katrina Tuason and Catherine Gruet

A Recipe Shower

THIS is a new one. We all have heard of kitchen, bathroom and lingerie showers but mother-daughter, **Wendy** and **Vicky Lopez**, threw a different shower for **Christine Gruet** at the Manila Polo Club. "Come and share your favorite recipe with **Christine**," the invitation read. Everyone complied and even brought along cookbooks, kitchen paraphernalia and aprons to complement their favorite recipes. Now, when **Christine** leaves for the United States with new husband, **Martin Lopez Prieto,** she will not be lacking for recipes that have been in the different families for many years. Guests were all cousins and aunts that were all delighted that two wonderful people had found each other.

Martin Prieto fell in love with **Christine Gruet** over five years ago. They found that they shared many things and were different in other things. She loves and dotes on children, prompting her to open her own preschool. He is a sportsman, who enjoys the great outdoors, gets thrills from racing cars, and is a National Badminton champion. These differences have made them complement each other and added a lot of variety and spice to their relationship. One day, they decided it was time to settle down much to the delight of the many family members that have seen this romance blossom and culminate into one of the most meaningful ceremonies we have witnessed. Their warm and intimate wedding will be a main feature in the next issue of Élan.

MOTHER of the bride, Tita Osmeña, Rosie Osmeña Valencia and Wendy Lopez

FROM left are Nena Lopez David, Vicky Lopez and Nena Liboro Benitez

An Expectant Mother's Tale

GETTING ready for the most awaited arrival of the baby is an overwhelming task. Good thing, the baby bag is ready. I have packed cute litte clothes and shoes form Chicco Moda, blanket, diapers, baby wipes, and a Chicco Rainbow Rattle for the baby.

Now, I have to go and check my baby's room. His bed, Chicco Pick-up Stroller, walker, Chicco Mamma Highchair were all bought from the Chicco Boutique. Name it and you got it. The Chicco brand is synonymous with high quality and innovative baby products imported from Italy. Why should we waste our time going somewhere else?

I was so glad I found Chicco Infinte Dolcezze baby care range. It has a complete selection of baby products, dental care, baby cologne, powder, wipes, sun block and a lot more.

Aware of the fact that a mother's milk is the best nourishment for babies, I have long made up my mind about breastfeeding. Chicco has hand-held breast pump, syringe breast pump, and even a battery operated one. My sister bought me Chicco Nipple Guards, breast pads and nursing bras. I also received tons of Chicco feeding bottles. Best of all, Chicco bottles have anti-hiccup features to preven stomach upsets.

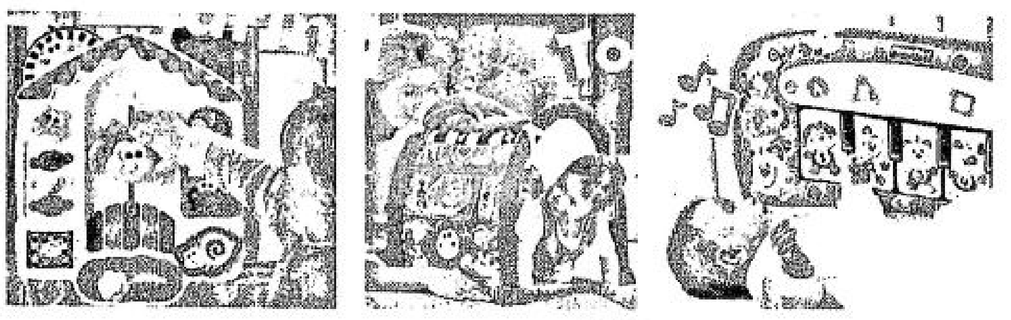
I bought him lots of award winning educational Chicco toys. The Chicco Smile Camera has real 35mm lens, real flash and comes complete with film!

I'd like to add that throughout my pregnancy, I always tried to look my best for my husband. Taking good care of my body is Chicco Mamma Donna, with its complete line of pregnancy cosmetics as well as maternity clothes and lingerie.

As I open the door, I see my husband in the car. Our eyes met and we both smiled. Suddenly, I felt the pain...and another story begins.

BABIES LEARN THE MOST WHEN THEY ARE HAVING FUN!

The first three years of your baby's life is a time of rapid change and discovery. From seeing your child's delight when reaching for a rattle to watching your child utter his first word, the world is full of new challenges. As a parent, you'll want to encourage your child's growth and learning. Fisher-Price can help. Our toys and play activities are designed to stimulate your toddler's cognitive and motor skill development and to give you many happy playtime moments together.



1st Child Development

Fisher-Price toys enriches baby's development in their senses of sound, sight and touch. Babies can even be more delighted with its fun filled sounds and music that can help spark the development of their skills.

Fisher-Price

Toys Featured: Singin' Wigglin Funhouse, Kick 'n Crawl Playhouse, Kick & Learn Piano, Melody Bug, Wiggle Bug & Dizzy Bug.

Join NOW!

WIN! Fisher-Price TOYS, WORTH PHP15,000!

We are giving **30 lucky readers** of the Philippine Daily Inquirer a **Php 500.00** worth of **Fisher-Price Toys**

No purchase required

Fisher Price believes there's nothing that creates a more wonderful bond between you and your child than playing together. Play encourages lifelong skills like imagination, communication, problem solving and self confidence. Fisher Price is known for its high quality, fun-filled and educational toys.

Fisher-Price SESAME STREET MATTEL

Win Fisher-Price Toys, worth Php 500.00
Q1. What does Fisher-Price believe in? ____________
Q2. What is Fisher-Price known for? ____________
Name: ____________ **Age:** ______
Address: ____________
Occupation: ____________ **Sex:** ______
Marital Status: ____________ **No of kids:** ______
Email Address: ____________

HOW TO WIN? Fill in your personal details and mail this coupon to Richwell Trading Corp. C/o Fisher-Price Marketing Department - 25 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Closing date: August 15, 2001. Winners will be notified by post. See posters for more details.

Mahirap talagang mahiwalay kay baby. Hindi mapanatag ang loob ni Mommy.

Kaya kailangang pakainin si baby ng mga masustansiyang pagkain. At karagdagang sustansiya ng Bonamil. A quality milk supplement na abot-kaya. May sapat na bitamina at mineral. Mayaman sa sustansiya, sa murang halaga. Upang matulungan si baby na lumaking masigla at masaya. Para sa kalusugan ni baby... para mapanatag ang loob ni Mommy.

Dagdag sustansiya
Bonamil®
Dagdag pagmamahal

Ang gatas ng ina ay pinakamabuti para sa bata hanggang 2 taon.
Ang maling paggamit ng anumang pamalit sa gatas ng ina ay maaring makasama sa kalusugan ng bata.
E.O. 51 C.A. No. 1104-99 Sept. 6, 1999

Reassurance beyond nutrition
Wyeth

"Do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around.
let's talk

AVON FASHIONS

EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE FROM YOUR AVON LADY AND AT AVON STORES AT SM MEGAMALL,
SOUTHMALL, SM MANILA, ALI MALL AND GLORIETTA. FOR INQUIRIES IN METRO MANILA CALL 864-2900.
PROVINCIAL TOLL-FREE 1-800-1-888-2866. E-MAIL: helpdesk.ph@avon.com

Whether it's fun and games or it's soccer and cheerleading, the Missy Active wear Cindy Bra & Jean Bra are perfect for active girls with on-the-go lifestyles. Created with the comfort of cotton and the gentle support of underwire, you can forget about jiggles and fidgeting and just focus on that back flip, goal, or even just getting that right foot in. Finally! There's a bra that can keep up with you!

Treat of the Week

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sat SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Honey and Fruit Dessert

5 tbsps. honey
juice of 2 lemons
dash of cinnamon
4 pcs. orange, peeled & thinly sliced crosswise
2 pcs. banana, sliced 1/2" diagonally
1 cup pitted whole prunes
1 170g. can NESTLÉ CREAM, chilled

Combine first 3 ingredients in a small bottle. Shake for about 2 min. Set aside. Arrange orange, banana and prunes in a platter. Pour prepared dressing over fruits; cover and chill for about 2 hours. Serve with NESTLÉ CREAM.

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

'Monica Brava' star charms local media

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY MONICA S. GUTIERREZ

SHE breezes into the GMA studio and wins us over right away. Never mind that we have been waiting for almost an hour and that it is freezing cold inside the studio. Her warm smile and disposition melts us all, male and female alike. The publicity photos of Natalia Oreiro show her in alluring and seductive poses, but standing here before us is a *koboy, kalog* woman who has no pretensions about herself. True, she is in a tight-fitting, spaghetti-strapped dress, which shows the freckles that adorn her chest, arms and neck. But she doesn't act sultry at all.

Eye contact

She smiles at everyone, establishing eye contact with as many people as she can. She notices me aiming my camera at her, and she stops in her seat, looking straight into my lens, and gives me a beautiful smile. As she sits at the presidential table, she remarks, "Eet's too cold here!" then announces that she is hungry.

A plate of food is delivered to her and she begins to eat, oblivious to the fact that Ernie Pecho, the designated emcee for the afternoon, has just announced that she will give a few words of welcome. When she realizes everyone is waiting for her to say something, she smiles sheepishly and

MONICA/ p.D2

OREIRO. No pretensions.

MSA NCLEX, NMAT,
SAT, GMAT, TSE, TWE, TOEFL,
COLLEGE and H.S. ENTRANCE TESTS REVIEW
July to September 2001
MSA ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT INSTITUTE
315 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights Quezon City
929-9145 ♦ 929-9159 ♦ 925-7544 ♦ 435-6062 ♦ 850-6551

movies parties events shops

GEN TXT JUL gigguide

07 july
Freestyle: Live in Cebu (in cooperation with DYUR-FM)
10 GENTXTers will win tickets to this party. Tune in to DYUR to find if you're the lucky GENTXTer.
Time: 9:00 PM
Venue: Cebu Waterfront Hotel

Art Avenue's 2nd Anniversary Party
Early GENTXTers get one free drink and bar chow. Just present your GENTXT card on this artsy night!
Time: 8:00 PM
Venue: Art Avenue, Pearl Drive, Ortigas

26 july
"Cats and Dogs" Advanced Screening (in cooperation with Magic 89.9TM)
The secret war between feline and canine is finally revealed in this furry movie. 50 GENTXTers will win a pair of tickets.
Time: 7:30 PM
Venue: SM Megamall, Cinema 9

"Moulin Rouge" Advanced Screening (in cooperation with RX93.1)
Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor star in this musical love story set in the infamous Paris club. 40 GENTXTers will win a pair of tickets.
Time: 7:30 PM
Venue: SM Megamall, Cinema 11

28 july
GENTXTers' Movie Night : "Jurassic Park III"
Sam Neill and Laura Dern return to the island of dinosaurs with Téa Leoni and William H. Macy 200 GENTXTers will win a pair of tickets to this exclusive movie screening.
Time: 7:30 PM
Venue: Glorietta 4, Cinema 3

31 july
"Bridget Jones's Diary" Advanced Screening (in cooperation with JOEY-FM)
Based on the best-selling novel by Helen Fielding, Renée Zellweger is Bridget who falls in love with her boss played by Hugh Grant. 15 GENTXTers will win a pair of tickets.
Time: 7:30 PM
Venue: Glorietta 4, Cinema 6

how to win tickets:

All official GENTXT members based in Manila can join this offer.
1. On July 16, key-in GENTXT and send it to 8-GENTXT (8-436898). 8AM to 5PM only.
2. On July 19, lucky members will be informed, via text message, if they won tickets and the specific movie/event they can attend. Please save this message.
3. Winners can claim their tickets at the venue of the specified event. Look for the GENTXT representative, show your GENTXT card, valid ID with photo and the saved message to get your tickets.
4. See flyers or visit www.gentxt.org for more details.

specialoffers

Country Style
GENTXTers may avail of their "Buy One, Take One" promo on all food items (this month only).

Discovery Spa
In addition to all the other perks, GENTXTers can exclusively avail the Black Mineral Mud Treatment for P1,000 (this month only).

For major discounts, free invites, and exclusive events and privileges, GENTXT is all you'll ever need.

It's so easy to get a GENTXT card. All active Globe Handyphone Plan and Prepaid Plus subscribers between 18 and 29 years old are eligible to get the card. Simply bring along the following:

- Valid ID with photo, signature and indication of birthday like a driver's license and SSS ID.
- If ID has no indication of birthday, please bring an ID with your picture and the document bearing your birthdate (e.g. community tax certificate, SSS Card, birth, marriage or baptismal certificate).
- Membership fee of P200 to be paid upon approval of application.

For Plan Subscribers:
One of the last two months paid/settled Globe Handyphone bill.

For Prepaid Plus Subscribers:
P1,500 worth of used Globe Handyphone Prepaid Plus call cards.

You can get and submit your application forms at all Globe Telecom Business Centers and selected GENTXT events. Also check out GENTXT special promos and discounts through GlobeXplore and InfoText. Via GlobeXplore: click on "info", then select "Globe info", then select "GENTXT". Through InfoText: key in GENTXT, to know about the latest events for the month or GENTXT ESTABS <establishment groups> (establishment groups are: A-E, F-J, K-O, P-T and U-Z, then send to 2333.)

newpartners

Angelino's (Metro Manila)
20% discount, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
Free iced tea 5:00 PM onwards.
Not valid for promos and take-outs

Beaver Tails (Metro Manila)
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Hallmark presents 'Ruby's Bucket of Blood'

ACCLAIMED actress Angela Bassett plays the title role in "Ruby's Bucket of Blood" on the Hallmark Channel at 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 15. In the television adaptation of Julie Herbert's outstanding play, Bassett's character owns a small club and is caught in the uproar over segregation in the US south in 1961.

Ruby is married to an oil rigger and is having problems raising her impulsive young daughter. Trouble rears its head when a white singer, Billy Dupree, comes into her life.

Their forbidden attraction to each other becomes a catalyst that changes people's lives. Aside from playing the title role, Bassett is also the TV drama's producer, and her friend Whoopi Goldberg is the executive producer.

Bassett has a masters degree in drama from Yale University. She is known for her performances in the Tina Turner biopic "What's Love Got to Do with It," "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" and "Music of the Heart."

The Hallmark channel is seen on Home Cable Channel 25, SkyCable Channel 38 and Destiny Cable Channel 25.

Ryan wins big

Congratulations to our esteemed friend and colleague Ryan Cayabyab for winning big in the first Onassis International Competition for Original Music Composition for Dance and original Choreography (2001).

Ryan won the second prize for "Misa 2001." He shared the prize with another composer, Christopher Lyndon-Gee from the United Kingdom. A total of 46 entries from 24 countries competed in the prestigious tilt. No first prize was awarded.

On the local front, Ryan is now the Executive and Artistic Director of the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Incidentally, some people have been disturbed by reports that Ryan and his family are migrating to the United States. Is this a misimpression resulting from the wrong context provided by a recent TV show on Filipinos leaving the country, in which Ryan was one of the guests?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

We've arranged to interview Ryan on this score and will give you the lowdown next week.

Crafts Camp

What do Agot Isidro, Lara Melissa de Leon, Michelle von Eimeren Alcasid and Babsie Molina have in common, aside from their links to the entertainment world? They have found the crafts workshops at The Pottery Exchange both psychically satisfying and therapeutic.

The Pottery Exchange (at the Bonaventure bldg. fronting Unimart on Ortigas ave., Greenhills) is run by four friends, Lanelle Abueva Fernando, Lydia Paredes, Bong Garrovillo and Ruthie Santiago.

SNACK (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids) has scheduled a Crafts Camp at The Pottery Exchange from July 24 to 28 for kids 7 to 12 years old. Classes to be held from 2 to 4 p.m. will be in Cross Stitching on July 24, Decoupage on July 25, Handbuilding Pottery on July 26, Ceramics Painting on July 27, and Polymer Clay on July 28. For details call SNACK camp director Bibsy Carballo at 721-0801.

Soprano in concert

Lyric coloratura soprano Elaine Lim Lee is featured in an evening of operatic arias, Broadway songs and *kundiman* at 7:30 p.m. today at Philamlife Theater on UN ave.

BASSET. Forbidden attraction.

CAYABYAB. Misimpression.

Elaine discovered her love for music when she was only 11 years old. In the Philippines, she studied voice under Citas Cabildo; in Vancouver, Canada, her musical mentors were Joseph Shore, Nikolai Kolesnikov, Anne Relyca and Heather Thomson.

Before learning to sing classical art songs and arias, Elaine sang pop songs in Chinese, Filipino and English. With her love for singing, she hopes that she can encourage young people to appreciate classical music.

Now on video

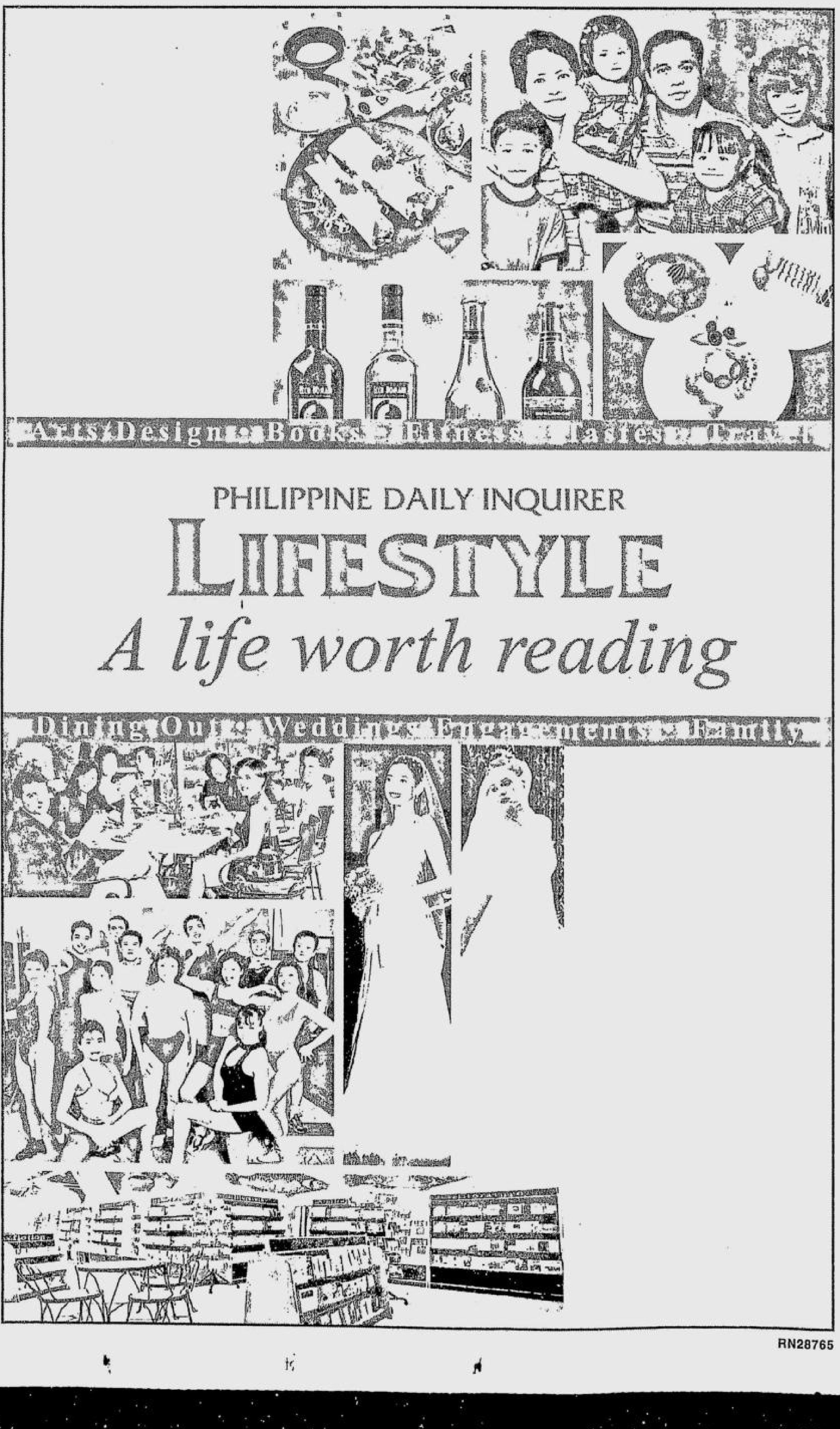
Disney's animated feature, "The Emperor's New Groove," is now on video. Set in a mythical mountain kingdom, it tells of an arrogant emperor who's turned into a llama by his devious advisor. Through this humbling experience, the emperor learns to value humility and friendship.

The movie's characters are voiced by David Spade, John Goodman and Eartha Kitt. The film's video is available at all Video City and Astrovision outlets.

Meanwhile, M. Night Shyamalan's "Unbreakable," starring Bruce Willis, has also been released on video (VHS, VCD and DVD formats). Willis plays a security guard who survives a disastrous train wreck. He's then contacted by a mysterious man (Samuel L. Jackson) who helps him realize his superhero potential. The "Unbreakable" video is available at all regular video outlets.

'XYZ'

At 7 tonight on Channel 21, "XYZ" spotlights VJ Bianca Araneta on bringing popular music to the tube. Kata Inocencio on how to get a job in television. Dr. Pilar Lagdameo-Levenberger on proper leg care. "XYZ" is directed by Ida Vargas.



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'Monica Brava' star charms local media

(From page D1)

gives a short greeting.

Natalia, star of GMA 7's new telenovela, "Monica Brava," which started airing last Monday at 8 p.m., was born in Uruguay 24 years ago. She moved to Argentina when she was 17 because, she said, Uruguay was small and offered few opportunities for growth.

Her first TV appearance was on a famous Argentinian telenovela called "Inconquistable Corazon" where she played a minor role. Later, she got a major role in "Ricos y Famosos" and then went on to do movies such as "Un Argentino en Nueva York" ("An Argentine in New York"), which matched the ticket sales of "Titanic," which opened in Buenos Aires on the same weekend.

She also has a self-titled album, which went double platinum, a second album, "Tu Veneno" (Your Poison), and her current album, "Cambio Dolor," the theme of "Monica Brava."

"Monica Brava," which airs in her homeland as "Muñeca Brava" (Wild Angel) and in Greece as "Milagros", is also seen in Romania, Slovenia, Israel and the Latin community in the United States.

Natalia speaks a little English but understands the language (there was a Filipino interpreter, Flora Maullon, with her the whole time, aside from her manager, Pablo Giordano), but she made every effort to learn a few phrases in Filipino, and tried as much as possible to answer in English.

However, listening to her speak in Spanish is entertaining, too. We have a fun time trying to decipher what it is she is saying, based on the little Spanish we know, and her facial expressions. Somehow, she is able to get across to the reporters, and boy, does she win them over, despite the language barrier!

Facial expressions

We are fascinated at the many facial expressions she displays as she talks, and her hands and fingers are flying all over the place, sometimes causing her to look quite unattractive. But that precisely is her endearing quality – she is not bent on maintaining an image of poise and beauty! She is quite confident about herself. She says that she doesn't know what her vital statistics are, she's never really cared to find out. But she gamely tells reporters that, if anyone has a tape measure around, she will gladly announce her measurements right then and there.

She says she hates dieting. She loves to eat, especially meat! She doesn't go for fish too much. Besides, she says, she does not like to emphasize things like that because many women, when they see a thin woman on TV, start to feel bad about themselves. "It's not healthy," she says in Spanish. Besides, men want some meat on their women, she intimates with a knowing smile.

Someone asks if she ever considered joining the Miss Universe pageant. She makes a face, saying that her body was not good enough to be Miss Argentina or Miss Uruguay.

She also declares that although she has received several offers from Hollywood, she is not that interested in doing movies there. She says that the world is a big place and that there are many other places to work aside from Hollywood. Although she is not closed to the idea of working there, she is not in a hurry to do so.

One reporter asks her if she is open to entertaining Filipino suitors. Natalia says that she is, as long as the suitor is a real man. Someone in the audience said, "*Tunay na lalaki!*" Natalia quickly picked it up, "*Tunay na lalaki?*" and asks her interpreter to write it down for her. She says that when she goes back to Argentina, she will tell everyone, she is looking for "*tunay na lalaki*!"

Big star

Although a big star in South America and other parts of the world, Natalia has never been to Asia. She can't contain her excitement at reaching this far away from South America. She reveals that the first thing she did when she learned she was coming to the Philippines was to look for our country on the world atlas. She then pretends she is looking at a map, pointed to where her country is, and then to where the Philippines is, makes a face and cries out at how far apart they were from each other.

Her first question was, "Do they really know me all the way out there?" But, she is quick to say that she had already heard about the Philippines before. She is just a very particular person and wanted to know exactly where it was that she would be going.

One of the first things she researched about the Philippines was what kind of food we have here. She says that she enjoys everything, but especially likes our fruits. She is especially impressed by the fact that we have a woman president. "Women are the stronger sex!" she declares in Spanish.

She is asked if she had not heard of the Abu Sayyaf, and is she not afraid of them? She asks her interpreter, "Abu Sayyaf? *Como?*" "*Bandidos*...," replies her interpreter. "*A . . . bandidos . . .!*" then she replies casually that they have *bandidos* back home, too. She says that she has already performed in Israel, so she is not really fazed by the threat.

NATALIA. Hates diets.

She is being tagged as the "Thalia of Argentina"—how does she feel about that? She says she doesn't mind being compared to Thalia. She says, again, that the world is a big place, and there is enough room for both of them to do their work. She has never met Thalia, but wouldn't mind working with her someday. No big deal. End of story.

Full of surprises

Boy, this Natalia is full of surprises. We had noticed that she had a tattoo on her left ankle, much like Regine Velasquez. When we ask her about it, all of a sudden, her left foot is on the table, as she displays her tribal design tattoo to the world.

"I love tattoos!" she declares. She says, "My mother will kill me, but I want to get some more, in the future." She decided on an ankle tattoo rather than one on her arm because, she says, "How can I play sweetie-sweetie (roles when I have a tattoo on my arm)?" as she puts on an expression of preposterousness.

As I said, *koboy*! Down-to-earth. Simple. Ordinary. She talks of her family as if she was just like you and me. Her father, Carlos, upholsters furniture and makes beds. Natalia brags that her father got her to be the model for his beds—as she strikes a seductive pose, similar to the ad she did for her father, but she comes across as hilarious.

Her mother, Mabel, loves music and sings even better than she does. She has only one sister, who is 28 years old and is getting married this year. Beba, her grandmother, is her number one fan, who watches out for her TV shows and pictures in magazines.

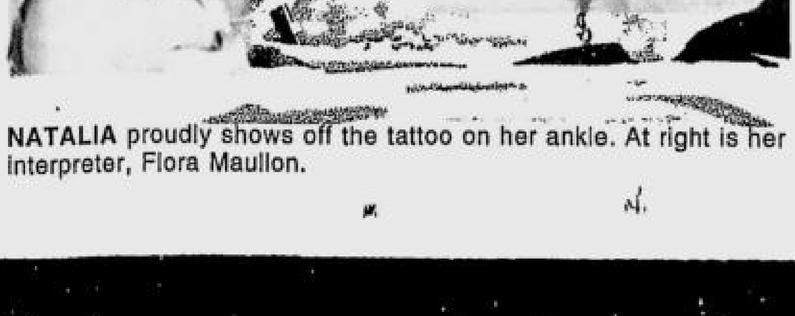
She hears someone say "*lola*" and she again makes a mental note that "*lola*" is Filipino for "*abuelita*." She has had only one boyfriend, but they broke up about a year ago, after a six-year relationship.

Autographs

By the end of the press con, she has the whole room in the palm of her hand. As the emcee thanks everyone for coming, some reporters stand up and immediately surround Natalia. Natalia gamely poses, shakes hands and autographs her posters. Not a few men are disappointed that she does not go kissing everyone, as she did in her past social events. If that presscon is any indication of the success of "Monica Brava" in the Philippines, then GMA 7 definitely has a hit on its hands.

"Monica Brava" airs on weekdays at 8 p.m.

OREIRO. Her first album went double platinum.



NATALIA proudly shows off the tattoo on her ankle. At right is her interpreter, Flora Maullon.

Laser eye surgery for the visually impaired

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

"FOUR-eyes," "Apat ang Mata," these were the hurtful names hurled at children wearing eyeglasses as early victims of visual disorders. Often the name-calling would give rise to feelings of insecurity that the children never outgrew. Their vision problems would also sometimes worsen in adult life, making it difficult for them to seek jobs where visual acuity was required.

THE DOCTORS AND STAFF OF THE MAKATI EYE LASER CENTER. Seated, from left: Ma. Paz Santos, Dr. Cosme Naval; Standing, from left: Emma Calderon, Fleur Flores, Ethyl Lapitan, Gie Cleofas, Dr. Jaime Dinglasan, Dr. Carmen Dinglasan, Dr. Roel Nuñez, Dr. Maricel Magdaluyo, Dr. Edgardo Aguirre.

Pioneer

The Makati Eye Laser Center performs thousands of surgeries with laser each year to add quality to the lives of the visually impaired. As a pioneer in the work of refractive surgery, or Lasik in the Philippines, The Makati Eye Laser Center has also started to improve the lives of children who are in danger of developing amblyopia, or lazy eye.

The condition is usually undetected in childhood. It occurs when one eye has a grade much higher than that of the other eye, leaving it unstimulated or undeveloped. In special instances, Lasik is done on children to allow full development of vision. This procedure was discussed at a convention last April 2001 at the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery as a surgery procedure of the future.

The Makati Eye Laser Center was established in 1995 as the Institute of Refractive Laser Surgery specializing in the treatment of farsightedness, nearsightedness and astigmatism. It has grown to become the Makati Eye Laser Center with the addition of other eye laser services and surtureless, outpatient cataract surgery.

It is now augmented by Wavefront, the largest group of ophthalmologists dedicated to the advancement of refractive surgery in the Philippines.

Wavefront technology or Zyoptix, is the most advanced technology today. It integrated with Lasik for true customized treatment, not only suited to the patient's lifestyle but also to his eye, since every eye is different.

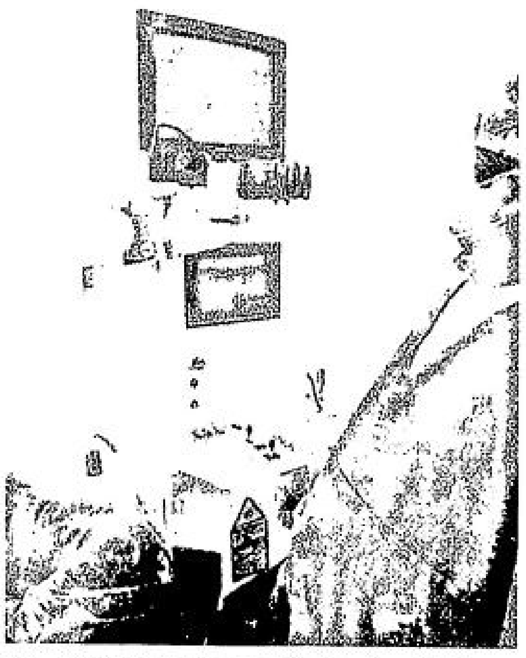
Comprehensive diagnosis

Zyoptix also allows comprehensive diagnosis since it takes not just a superficial corneal map but a three dimensional pattern of the structures inside the eye. The Makati Eye Laser Center is the only center in the Philippines with Zyoptix.

Makati Eye Laser Center now offers a package of eyebag removal and Lasik, done two weeks apart. Patients only need to rest at home on the day of the surgery and may go to work the next day.

Because laser eye surgery correction is permanent, many patients are relieved of the economic burden of having their eyes constantly checked and having to buy new eyeglasses or contact lenses every year.

The Makati Eye Laser Center is located at the ground floor of the Alegria Building, 2229 Pasong Tamo Street, Makati City with telephone numbers 813-0343, 893-1152 and 816-0602.



DR. JAIME Dinglasan with the Zyoptix laser.

DR. COSME Naval uses the argon laser to alleviate bleeding problems in the retina.

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Julius Babao, broadcaster and artist

By Bibsy M. Carballo

WHEN broadcaster Julius Babao was a little boy in elementary school, he joined an art competition and lost. The loss affected him so much that he refused to pick up his drawing materials for the longest time out of frustration.

When he grew up and decided to pursue a college degree, he applied at the UP School of Fine Arts and again was not accepted.

However, Julius' interest in painting has not dwindled one bit.

BABAO and his self-portrait.

JULIUS shows his sketch of Jose Rizal to fiancee Tintin Bersola.

No formal training

He has picked up his pastels and watercolors and has started to paint again. Without any formal training, he shows a fascination for people and portraits, subjects significantly more difficult to portray than still-lifes or landscapes.

His sketchpad is filled with portraits—three of Rizal, two self-portraits, some religious drawings, some sketches of people he sees on the streets. "I am fascinated with Rizal," he tells us, so much so that he can draw the national hero from memory.

Julius says that he has been drawing since childhood. He remembers as a child buying religious wooden figures and painting them. This is perhaps the reason why he is partial to religious subjects in paintings.

He has also fed his love for paintings by collecting artworks. His leisure time is spent scouring the galleries and the malls in search of paintings. He can't recall how many paintings he has in his possession since he started collecting some five years ago, but certainly, his fiancee Tintin Bersola says, they would be over a hundred.

New artists

He has three Bencabs, several Ang Kiukoks, as well as some new artists in his collection. "*Hindi na kasya sa* pad *niya*, and many of them are just on the floor," Tintin tells us.

When Julius and Tintin get married (they have already bought a 300 sq. meter lot) and build their house, most certainly they will consider much of the space to allot to hanging the paintings.

Julius confesses to a penchant for collecting. "I collect everything, from chairs, to CDs and VCDs. I am also a mall rat and Tintin and I can spend the whole day in the mall just hanging around."

Love for gardens

His only concession to the outdoors is a love for gardens, which again will surely be a part of his house. And dogs, of which he has two.

Many friends have been convincing Julius to take up painting seriously. He plans to study oil painting, but much of his time is taken up by his work at ABS-CBN as one of the network's prime assets in the broadcast department.

Tintin is his biggest fan and it is she who pushes Julius to take up his art seriously. Perhaps when time will permit, when the pressures of the job will not be as severe, we may be happily surprised to see a Julius Babao hanging on the walls of a gallery—and the little boy who got frustrated with his dream will finally see it come true!

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Lesson learned

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

AFTER a PBA game last July 4, at around 10:30 p.m., I decided to have a snack with my two sons, Franco, 12, Arturo 7, and a nephew Eduardo, 12. While I was ordering food, Arturo told me he would go to the playground to play before the food arrives.

Surprise

When I sat down at the table, to my surprise, he was already there. We were enjoying our meal but Arturo was unusually quiet. I saw a friend and his wife at another table so I approached their table to talk to them.

Franco later told me that he was getting annoyed at Arturo for using him as a shield—from what, I didn't know. After a few minutes, Arturo came to me and sat on my lap.

Soon after, we decided to leave. We walked towards our car, which was parked on the side where the tricycles were. While walking towards the vehicle, Arturo called my attention and told me that there was a man spraying him with the spritzer (containing cleaning solution) he was holding!

At first, I thought nothing of it and said, "He's just kidding you". I turned around and saw a crewmember of the establishment (wearing glasses) suddenly turn around to avoid my gaze.

Tears

He was following Arturo up to the car until I turned to look the second time. I didn't realize the gravity of it all until my son told me in tears, fear and trembling that the man pulled his pants down twice!

I went back to confront this crewmember. He said he was just fond ("*natutuwa*") of my son, that he was just joking and that he was sorry. He kept apologizing. I was so tempted to strangle him and give him a dose of his own medicine. I told him off instead.

On our way back home, Arturo narrated to me that when he was about to go to the playground, the crewmember approached him and threatened, "I'm gonna get you, kid."

Also, while we were eating, he was cleaning the other tables nearby while staring at and scaring my son. Now I know why Arturo kept on hiding behind my other son, why he sat on my lap and why he did not feel like eating his spaghetti. If this was fun to this guy, it certainly didn't seem like that to a seven-year-old boy.

Apologetic

I decided to go back and relate the entire story to the manager, who was very apologetic. I thanked her for handling the situation well. I was told that this crewmember admitted realizing Arturo was scared.

If his intentions were pure, why didn't he stop? He admitted he saw the fear in my son and still he continued to harass him by following him up to the car, spraying him and pulling his pants. I guess he knew I wasn't looking.

I don't have to go into details about the reputation of this fast food chain. Arturo was terrified of this sick man. He was crying and trembling.

Horrifying image

This is the image this warped mind has implanted on my young son. The result of what started out as a wholesome visit to this place has left a horrifying image to a boy.

I learned this person had been in that establishment for a year and a half already. I wonder how many boys, who out of fear have kept quiet, he has victimized in the past.

To the credit of the establishment, they gave the incident full attention and are making all efforts to win back the trust Arturo once had for their establishment.

I learned a lesson: No matter where you are, you can never be too sure about your kids' safety. In the end, it is still God who is in full control of everything.

NOT SO HAPPY EATING!

A funny thing happened . . .

By Nestor U. Torre

A FUNNY thing happened to us on our way to Hong Kong to preview a new film and to interview its star and director: We never got there!

Comedy of errors

Therein lies a tale of woes, an unintended comedy of errors—and even of possible terrors—and feelings of frustration so huge that an elephant would choke on them. Read on:

Friday last week, we woke up early that stormy morning to get to the Centennial Terminal in time for our 10 a.m. flight to Hong Kong. When we arrived at the terminal, we saw that Paolo Bediones, Ricky Lo, Boy Abunda and Walden Belen had gotten there ahead of us. They greeted us with the bad news: our flight had been cancelled due to stormy weather in the Crown Colony.

Bad idea

Well, we thought, that was that, and we all went our separate ways. It *was* a bad idea to fly into the face of a strong typhoon, even if it was on official business.

Shortly after we went back home, however, we got a call that informed us that the weather in Hong Kong had cleared enough for flights there to be resumed, so would we consider going back to the airport to catch the 5:45 p.m. flight to Hong Kong?

We inquired if this new information about the storm's departure was reliable, and we were assured that it was. So, overcoming our natural inertia, we packed our bag anew and did a Take Two on our trip to Hong Kong.

Earlier flight

Sure enough, when we arrived at the terminal later that afternoon, everything looked all-systems-go. After checking in, we passed the time in the cushy lounge for business class passengers. We were informed that Paolo had taken an earlier flight, and Walden would be flying with us at 5:45 p.m.

When we boarded the plane with Walden, we had gotten over our disappointment over the flight cancellation that morning, and were now completely relaxed. Despite some patches of bumpy flying due to the vestiges of Typhoon Feria, the two-hour flight was otherwise smooth and uneventful.

Delay

Then, 15 minutes away from our destination, the pilot reported that there were "misapproaches" at the airport in Hong Kong, hence we would be experiencing some delay.

Finally, a few minutes later, the pilot informed us that, due to poor visibility at the airport, and since our safety was paramount, he had decided to head back for Manila!

You can imagine how boggled the passengers were. So near and yet so far, and all that! Goodbye, movie star; goodbye, director—hope you have better luck than us. And, whoever said the weather had cleared in Hong Kong enough for us to fly there should forget his plans of becoming a weather analyst.

Twin disappointments

The flight back to Manila felt much longer because we had just passed this way before, and we were tired and feeling psychically battered after the long day's twin disappointments.

We could just hear our friends razzing us: "*Wala ka kasing kadala-dala,*" etc., etc! Well, we deserved it.

Back at the Manila terminal, we were told to reconfirm our tickets for the *next* flight back to Hong Kong, when the weather would finally, definitely, *absolutely* permit it. But, after two strikes, we certainly weren't about to go back at bat again, so we philosophically took our lumps, and went home.

12-hour flight to nowhere

At 10 a.m. that morning, we were supposed to fly to Hong Kong. It was now 10 p.m., and we still weren't there. But humbling our 12-hour flight to nowhere *had* taken us somewhere: to that realization that the best-laid plans of mice and men sometimes get rained and even flooded out!

No use protesting to high heavens, since the high heavens are doing their own protesting. Just go with the flow—even if it's a flood!

ALBUM REVIEW

Lose some, win some

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

Reveal
R.E.M. Band
Warner Music Phils.

IF YOU'RE a musician and you dig unique chord progressions, you'll love this album. It's experimental and cool if you're into sound tripping. But if you'd rather listen to an album that you can relate to, you'd better skip this one.

The album has good hooks and the guys play well, but the melodies should have been simpler.

"Disappear" and "I've Been High" give you a feeling of hopelessness. The lyrics "I've been high, I've climbed so high, but life sometimes it washes over me. Washes over me. Close my eyes so I can see make my make-believe believe in me" are full of exhaustion, emptiness and loneliness.

Observation

They give you a sense that these guys are merely existing and not living. The lyrics from "Disappear" strengthen this observation as they whine, "Look at this face, can you believe it? Am I living in a beautiful vacuum, because I can't see it. The vanishing point appears."

These songs make you question why you're doing what you're doing. Is it because you love it, or because you've fallen into a safe routine? So if you're having a bad week, cover your ears and skip these songs.

"She Just Wants To Be" is about learning from the past and living in the present. This song urges you to enjoy the journey instead of being anxious about the steps you're going to take to get there.

Drudgery of life

"Saturn Return" is about escaping the drudgery of life by staring at the planet. There's a metaphor or deep meaning somewhere in the song, but i'm just too dense to figure it out.

"Imitation of Life" is one of those songs that really make you think. It shows how man manipulates nature to create stuff for his enjoyment. The lyrics "the sugarcane that tasted good, that cinnamon that's Hollywood, c'mon c'mon no one can see you try" make you question your basic values.

Gotta Tell You
Samantha Mumba
MCA Universal

If pop-inflected R & B tunes thrill you, this might catch your fancy. It has the same catchy effort of TLC, Brandy and Britney Spears. But Samantha sounds much, much better than Britney. Samantha can even match Christina Aguilera's vocal prowess.

The title track, "Gotta Tell You," speaks about being with the "right one" and the urgency of wanting to tell him that he's "the one." Loving someone is a risk and finding "the one" makes it worth the gamble.

"Lately" is another break-up song. The lyrics will milk all your frustrations and heartaches away. They impart emotional pain and the sacrifice one goes through after a break-up. The girl's not alright and yearns to have him back but she sees that he has apparently moved on.

Complete abandon

With complete abandon and feeling, Samantha gives you the impression that she wants to stop being a martyr and wants to end her loneliness, but she doesn't know how because she can't let go.

"Body II Body" is an upbeat party song. But it's also about aggressive girls who have too much fun at a party even after their moms warn them about being too young. As you listen to the song, you can almost visually see bodies moving close, and jumping up and down.

"I Always Come Back To Your Love" is soothing and mushy. It's emotional but not overbearing. It's laid-back but still drives its point across.

"Baby Come On Over" is about making the slow transition from being friends to being romantic partners. It shows how a guy makes his moves and "*diskarte*," and how the girl slowly reciprocates.

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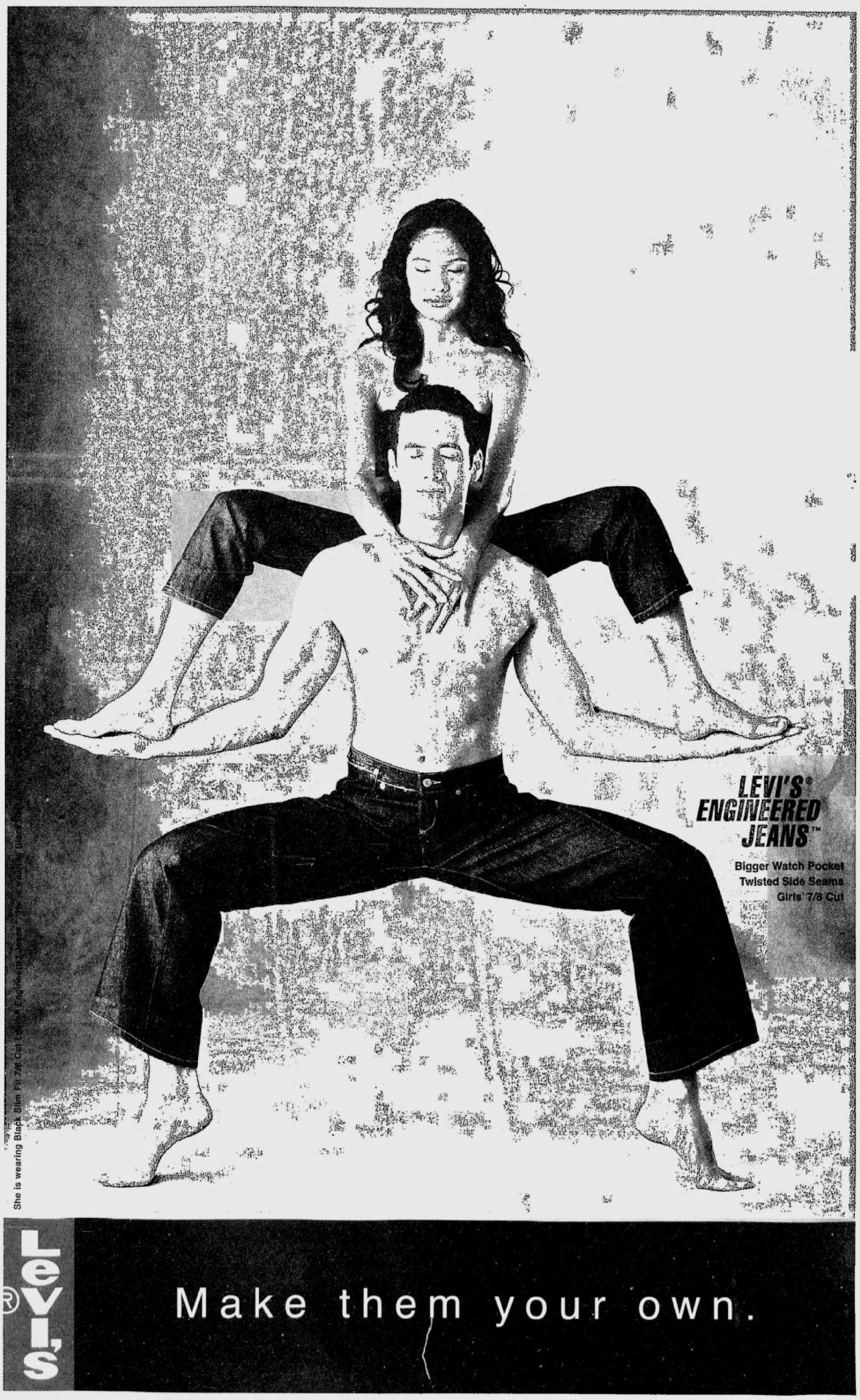
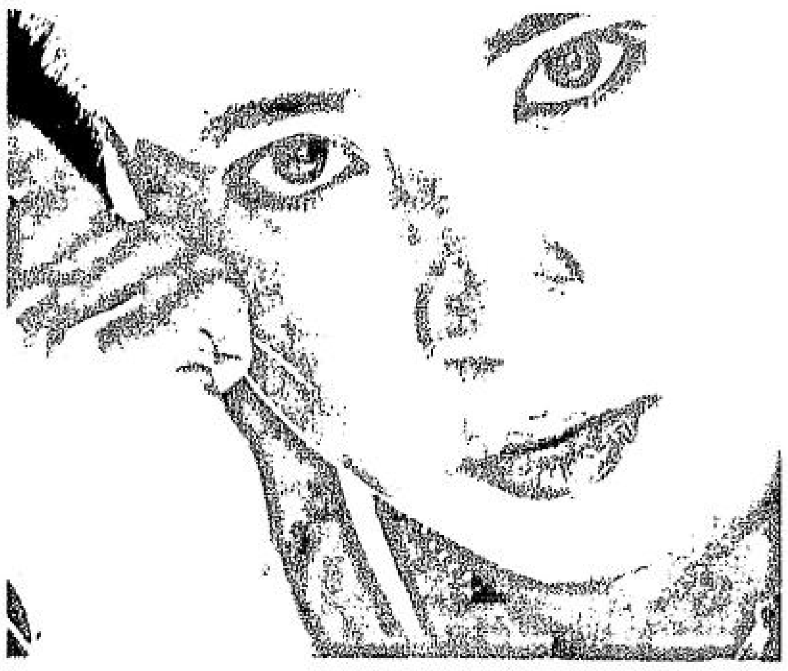


Viva Records signs up Rannie Raymundo

By Remy M. Umerez



RAYMUNDO. Has written more than a thousand songs.

1993 saw the start of the singing career of Rannie Raymundo, a product of La Salle Greenhills' Kundirana (Batch '85) with batchmates Ogie Alcasid, Dingdong Avanzado and Men and Music.

When he entered the recording field, Rannie was immediately known as Mr. Rhythm and The Total Music Man. His baritone voice suited all grooves: soul, R&B, folk, jazz, pop and at times classical.

Although Rannie has had no formal training, he can play the drums, percussion, keyboards, bass, guitar, harmonica and flute.

Main goal

His main goal as an artist is to promote Filipino songs, music he calls fusion, a combination of pop, jazz, folk and rock.

Rannie has written more than a thousand songs, most of them kept in the "*baul*." The ones that are out have gained recognition.

His first album was loaded with hits, such as "Hanggang Kailan," "Ating Bawiin," "Ewan Ko," and the monster hit "Why Can't It Be." It was followed by a second album titled "All the Right Moves," where all the songs were composed and arranged by Rannie.

The third album "Maskara," had a special cut "Ang Awit Mo" that won for Rannie the third prize in the 1996 Metropop festival.

Then, silence. Rannie felt the need to get away from it all and gain new perspectives. He devoted his time to the family business and occasionally joined Pinoy artists who performed for Filipino communities abroad.

Revivals

Recording was something Rannie missed terribly but the music trends had changed. He couldn't see himself competing with boy bands, alternative music and an overdose of revivals.

He found a new outlet. He authored a book titled "Digitation: The Hand Book of Life" published by Spiritus Works Publications.

It took Viva's recording boss Vincent del Rosario to convince Rannie to make a comeback in recording via the newly released "Oras."

There are 14 cuts in the album and "Oras" was handpicked as the carrier singe not only because it is a standard Pinoy love song but also because of its commercial appeal.

"It is about the playfulness and cruelty of time. How it flies when you are having fun, and how an hour could seem like eternity when waiting for someone special. The refrain is about me asking time to stop and take a break when I met my girl," Rannie explains.

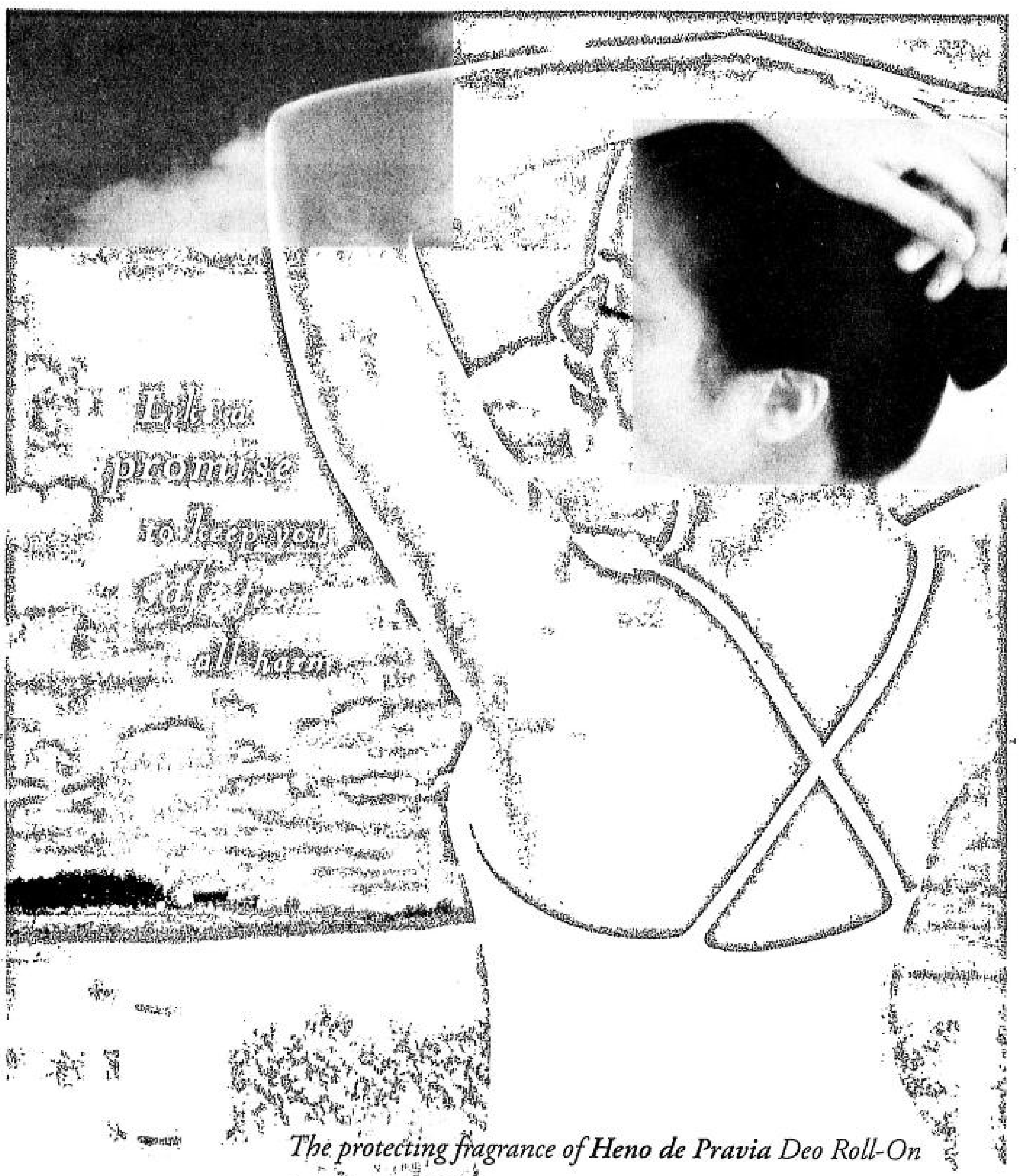
A personal favorite is "Payaso," the most romantic song in the album. "I am a hopeless romantic who would do anything, from the bizarre to the ridiculous, just to make my girlfriend happy," he reveals.

Fear

Another personal favorite is "Isa Pa," inspired by Florante's "Handog." It echoes the fear of saying goodbye.

It wouldn't be a Rannie Raymundo album without a ballad. This is what his followers have been clamoring for since he penned "Why Can't It Be." The answer can be found in "One Way Love Affair." It is about a love that longs for attention and a little reciprocation.

The CD "Oras" is Rannie's gift to all listeners, to his friends, his fans, his family—and especially to himself!



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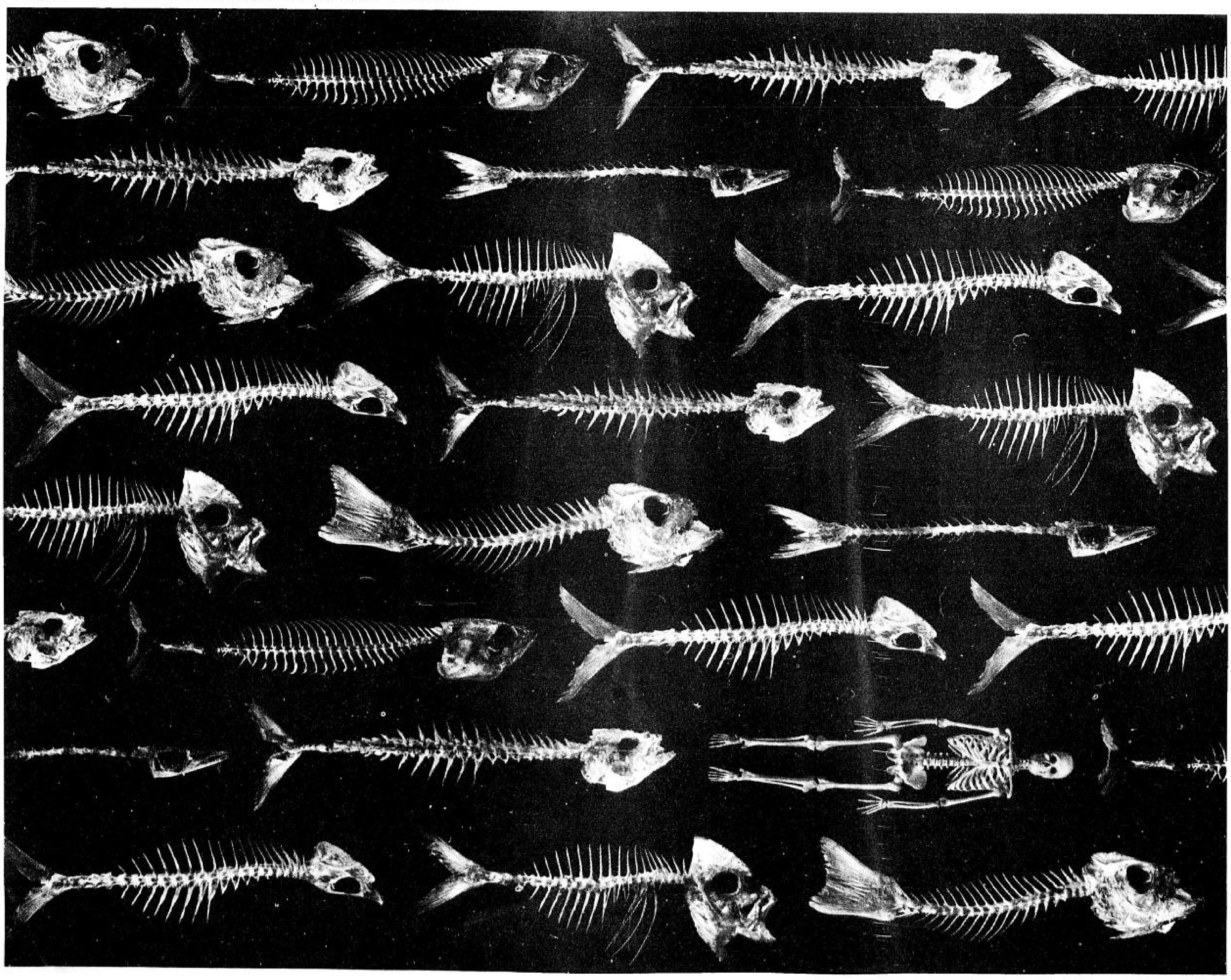

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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Janno Gibbs wants to remain wholesome

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA
AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

JANNO Gibbs' tandem with Anjo Yllana on GMA-7's "Beh Bote Nga" and the defunct "Ober Da Bakod" has clicked. They have chemistry and comic timing, and even their adlibs have jibed.

When Janno had Andrew E. as his sparring partner in Viva Films' "Tusong Twosome," his jokes worked because the humor overpowered the sexual element. Sometimes, he was even funnier than Andrew E.

But Janno claims that he's serious and quiet when he's not clowning around onscreen or performing in concerts. "*Mahirap akong patawanin*. It's easy to put on a serious face when I'm delivering a punchline. If the joke doesn't work, I can always pretend that it's not meant to be funny," Janno grins.

Last week when Janno performed for Crossover at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Manila, he also delivered some jokes in a deadpan manner. He exchanged spontaneous banter with the audience as he turned James Ingram's "Just Once" into a riot.

Without changing the lyrics of the song, he imitated the different styles of various singers. He sang "Just Once" to the tune of Frank Sinatra's "My Way," then he switched to Michael Jackson's "She's Out of My Life," using the same song. After that he copied Martin Nievera's "Say That You Love Me" with the same song and got wild applause.

He opted not to imitate Mystica but complied with the request by doing a split onstage. He also copied Jaya's style even if Jaya was watching him that night.

Ballads like "One Last Cry," "I Want To Know," "Incomplete," and "6-8-12," got a decent revision from Janno. His version was so soulful, he sounded like a black singer.

Jaya must have enjoyed the show because she gamely sang a duet, "As," with Janno when the audience asked for an encore.

Pops' passion, Martin's magnitude

We devoted our schedule two weekends ago to Martin Nievera and Pops Fernandez. Friday saw us trooping to Pops's "Beyond Words" concert at The Westin Philippine Plaza.

Although the show started 50 minutes late, we felt that the long wait was worth it when Pops sauntered onstage and opened with "This Is the Right Time."

Since we grew up in the early '80s, we particularly liked her Lani Hall medley and her interpretation of the all-time favorite Olivia Newton-John classic "I Honestly Love You," which she combined with the theme from "Ice Castles."

We commend Pops for making smart choices as far as her repertoire is concerned, which we reckon is her secret weapon. After years of following her career, we cannot be berated if we say that Pops is certainly not one of this country's better singers but she always makes up for this with a well-thought-of production.

In last weekend's show, Pops also showed that she had learned to connect with her audience, this time with her heart, and not only with the details and trimmings that usually make up her performances.

Another highlight was when she sang a song composed by her ex-husband. "Beyond Words" is not only a well-written song but its haunting melody also goes straight where it truly matters.

We went to Martin Nievera's show at the OnStage Theatre in Makati, expecting not to hear the same songs usually found in his repertoire, and hoping to see less of his OA facial antics. Okay, some quarters say that Martin wouldn't be Martin if he didn't exaggerate his movements, but we think he crosses the line too often.

Regarding his repertoire, except for the '*gasgas-na-gasgas-na*' Broadway Medley which should really take a much-deserved sabbatical, our wish was granted. This time around, Martin and musical director Louie Ocampo were brave enough to select a few songs that were not familiar to the mostly yuppie crowd who came to watch.

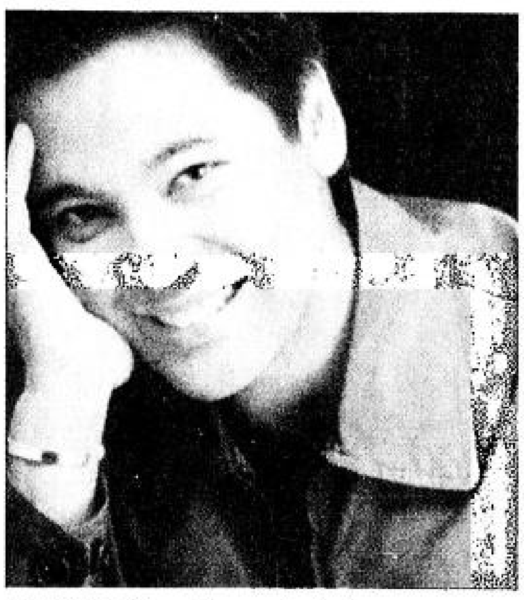
We loved the Stevie Wonder medley and we have to single out the Tagalog Acoustic Hits where Martin sang "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" and "Sana Maulit Muli" and Aiza Seguerra's current hit "Pagdating ng Panahon."

We thought the show wouldn't suffer a bit even without his duet with Maxine ("Nobody Wants to be Lonely"), and Maxine's solo number, "Play."

We felt Martin was most vocally consistent when he rendered "What Kind of Fool Am I" and two Ocampo hits, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" and "Kahit Isang Saglit." But he went overboard when he repeatedly praised Ocampo to the highest heavens from segment to segment, as if the show were a tribute to Ocampo.

Another big letdown was the encore, when Martin sang "The Greatest Love of All" with stills from "Mila" as backdrop. This was obviously a "promotional strategy" that was not necessary, and even distasteful.

Janno claims he's serious and quiet when he isn't clowning around onscreen or performing in concerts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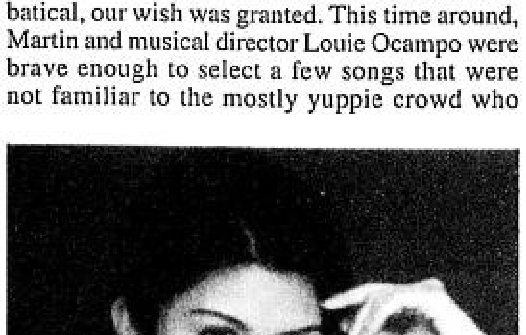
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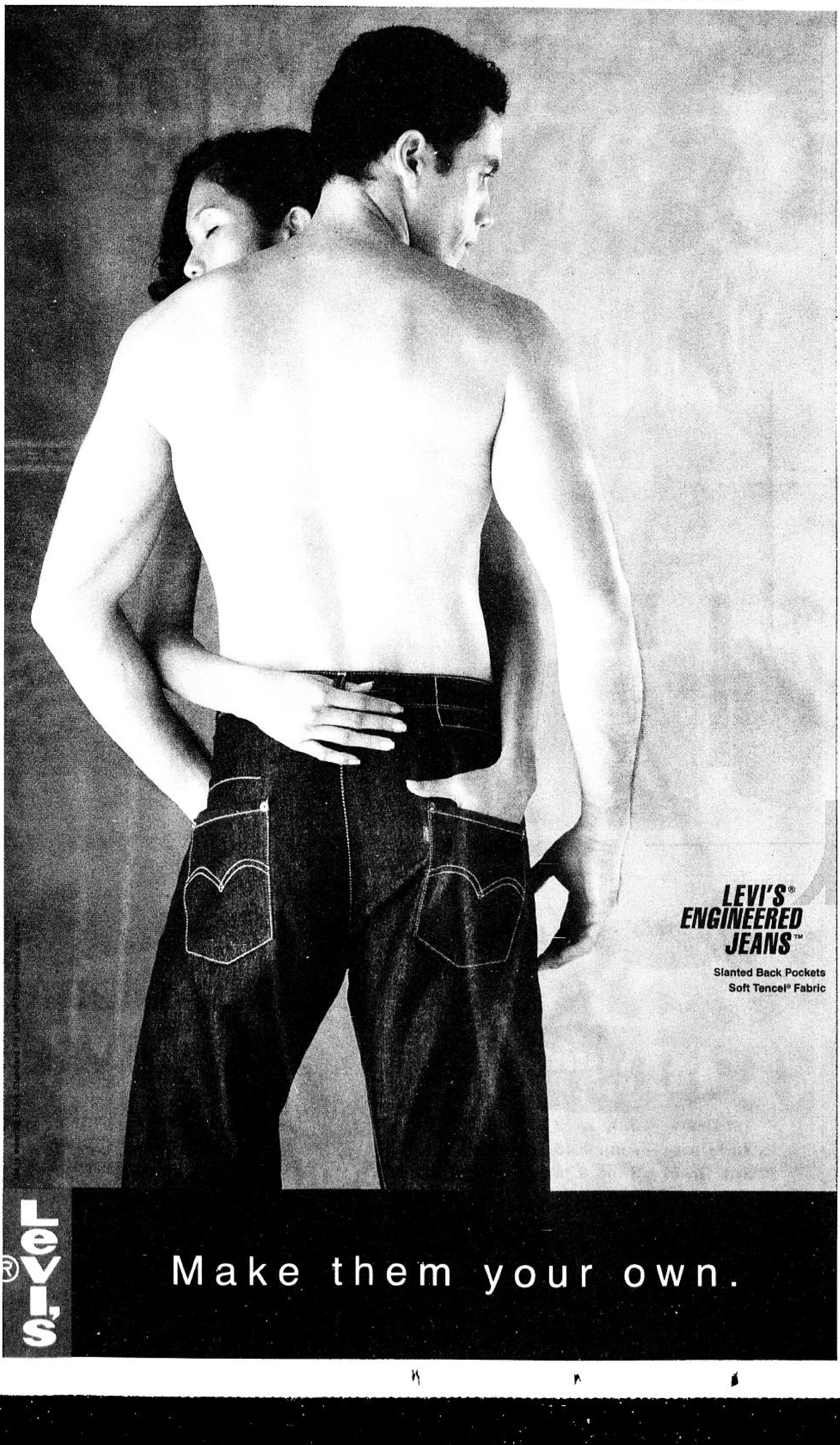

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Saturday SPECIAL

Jet Li appreciates his fans' honesty

By Douglas J. Rowe

LI. Fighting should not be the main attraction. AP

NEW YORK—Jet Li appreciates his fans' honesty, which is more than he often gets from the people around him. So he likes getting e-mail on his website and relies on it to learn what his fans want.

"You can hear the real opinion," he says.

Axiom

The martial-arts whirling-dervish, who stars in the new film "Kiss of the Dragon," is polite enough not to say he realized there's a Hollywood axiom that begins: "Honesty—once you can fake that . . ."

No, he's so polite that he characterizes sycophantic slobberings as . . . politeness.

"A lot of people around me, they're very polite. They say, 'You're great. You're fantastic. You're wonderful.' . . . Everybody tell you: 'Jet, you're fantastic, you're WON-derful, you're a-MAZ-ing!'" he says, getting the unctuous intonations just right, even though his English admittedly can be a bit uncertain.

"In the beginning of course you're happy because you don't know the culture. But later on you figure: 'Come on. Wait a

JET/p.E2

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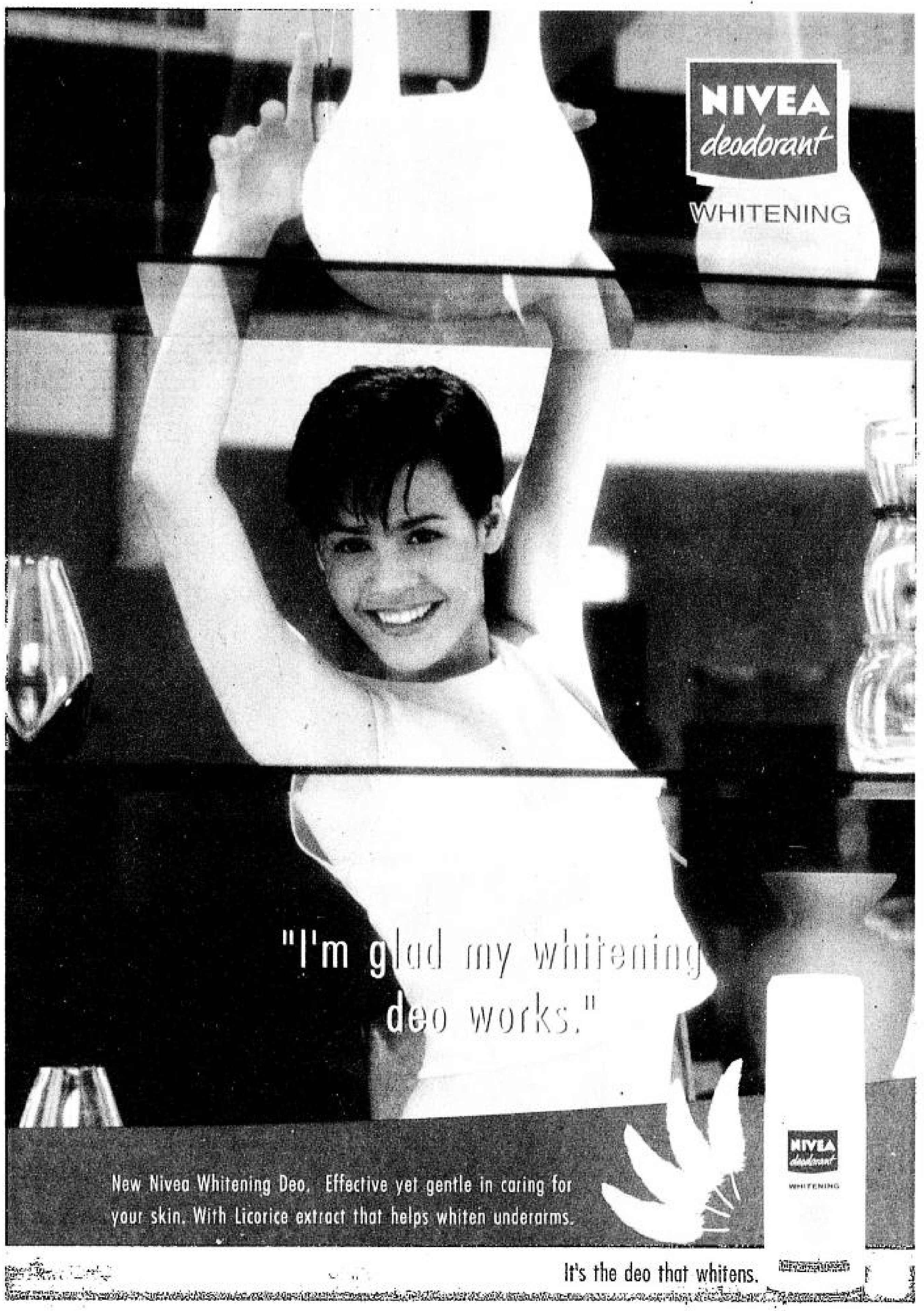

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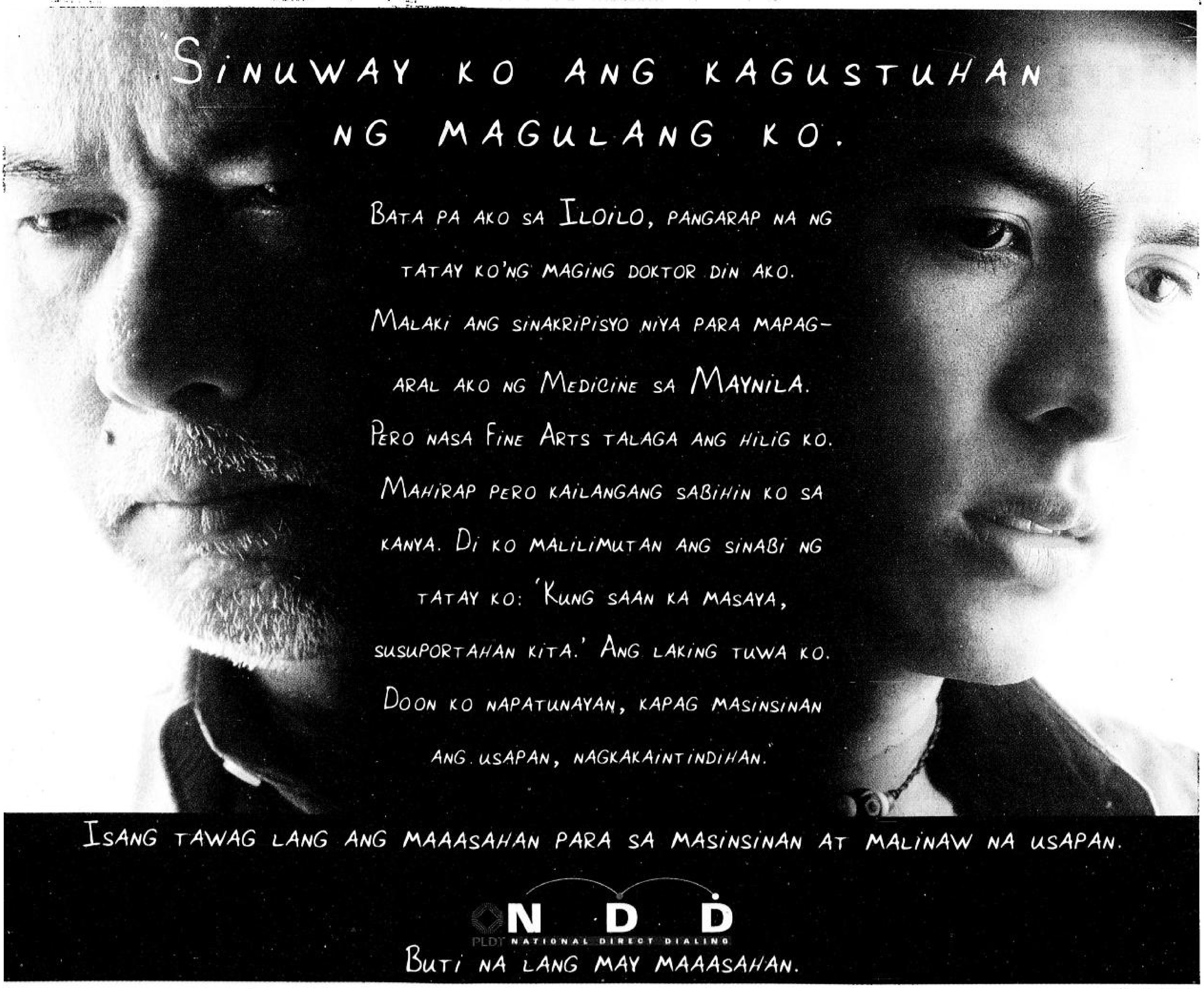

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Spielberg completes Kubrick's vision

By Anthony Breznican

OSMENT, left, as a robot child programmed to love and Law, right, as a pleasure robot, rehearse a scene as Spielberg looks on.

LOS ANGELES—Steven Spielberg's "A.I." star is real; Stanley Kubrick's was not.

The late director spent years developing the story about a robot child programmed to love. But he was stymied by casting. Notorious for his long shooting schedules, Kubrick knew employing a real boy wouldn't work.

Longtime producer

"That's because the child would age," said Jan Harlan, Kubrick's brother-in-law and longtime producer. "A robot can't age. Stanley would jokingly say, 'By the time I'm finished, the kid would have a beard.'"

Kubrick obsessed over "A.I. Artificial Intelligence" for nearly two decades, at one point experimenting with an actual robot covered by plastic skin that he hoped could star in the movie.

"The robot was lifeless—a total failure," Harlan recalled with a laugh. "It really looked grotesque, and we gave up on it."

Then Kubrick saw the digital dinosaurs in Spielberg's 1993 adventure "Jurassic Park" and realized that special-effects technology could perhaps create the forever young child he needed.

Although their filmmaking styles varied greatly, Kubrick and Spielberg began speaking regularly on the phone about "A.I.," with Kubrick picking Spielberg's brain about the latest developments in computer-generated effects.

Soon, the famously secretive filmmaker began sharing story details and hundreds of concept drawings of his futuristic world. He threatened to cut Spielberg out of his life if he showed them to anyone else.

Phone call

"A phone call would happen between the two of them and they would hang up and immediately send each other info on all the latest in technology," said Bonnie Curtis, a producer on "A.I." "They were fascinated by robotics and would exchange little gadgets and the latest toys."

Then one day in 1994, Kubrick suggested that maybe Spielberg should direct "A.I."

"I was shocked," Spielberg recalled. "I said, 'Why would you want to do that, Stanley?' He just said 'Well, you know, I think this movie is closer to your sensibility than mine.'"

Knowing his own style was somewhat detached, Kubrick believed the themes of lost childhood in "A.I." would benefit from Spielberg's more sentimental touch. Kubrick hoped to keep working on the film, but only as a producer.

Spielberg agreed to take over the project after Kubrick died in 1999 at age 70, shortly after completing "Eyes Wide Shut."

"We gave Steven all the material," said Christiane Kubrick, Stanley's wife of 40 years. "We gave it to him as we found it, because it was all over the house, hundreds and hundreds of very good drawings and bits of script and story."

The key document became a detailed synopsis of Kubrick's plot, an adaptation of the 1969 Brian Aldiss short story "Super-Toys Last All Summer Long."

Weak middle

"But the script wasn't finished and the story had a weak middle," Mrs. Kubrick said. "It wasn't worked out right and Stanley knew he wasn't finished."

Spielberg began writing the final script himself, something he hadn't done since 1977's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

"I was like an archaeologist, picking up the pieces of a civilization and putting Stanley's picture back together again," Spielberg said.

The finished product retained most of Kubrick's details, Harlan said, such as the "pleasure" robot Gigolo Joe played by Jude Law, a robot-hunting balloon shaped like the moon and the hypererotic metropolis Rouge City.

Spielberg softened only one major element of Kubrick's vision: sex.

Harlan said Gigolo Joe's life as a literal sex machine was supposed to be far more explicit. "If Stanley had made this, we'd be battling to get an R rating," he said. (The film is rated PG-13.)

No problem

Since Spielberg planned to finish filming in only two months, he had no problem hiring a real child for the starring role.

Haley Joel Osment, the 13-year-old best known as the frightened, whispering waif of "The Sixth Sense," never met Kubrick but said Spielberg often talked about him on the set.

"Steven would say, 'Now, this is a shot Stanley would have done,' or 'Stanley would have liked this,'" Osment said.

The challenge for Spielberg was paying homage to Kubrick without surrendering his own style.

"Steven had enormous respect for what Stanley had envisioned early in the process," said Kathleen Kennedy, another producer of "A.I." "But there wasn't enough there. He had to take what Stanley was thinking about . . . and interpret that and make it his own."

Kubrick's family said he was most interested in one question: What responsibility would humans have toward a machine programmed with feelings of loyalty and affection?

They hoped Spielberg would remain true to that, if nothing else.

"Luckily, both of them had similar interests in this thematic point," said Curtis, the other "A.I." producer.

Actress Frances O'Connor, who plays the human mother to the robot child, said she felt "A.I." became a mix of the two director's styles.

"Kubrick had the ability to get under our skin a bit more, whereas Steven kind of knows what our dreams are," she said.

Eerie

"There were certain moments that felt very eerie and weird, like we were all really working on a Kubrick film."

Spielberg said he tried to evoke Kubrick's style and even wove references to past Kubrick films into "A.I."

Some were obvious, such as the milk bars from "A Clockwork Orange" in Rogue City, while others were subtler, like staging a family's dinner table like the war room conference in "Dr. Strangelove."

Despite his perfectionist tendencies, Kubrick would never have interfered with Spielberg if he had lived to produce the movie—even if he disagreed with the direction.

"'No committee,' he always said, 'has ever written a good book or a symphony or painted a great painting. And no committee has ever made a great film,'" Harlan said.

Both he and Kubrick's widow said they're very happy with Spielberg's version of "A.I."

"I saw Stanley's handwriting over every single frame," Harlan said. "Stanley would have really applauded this." *AP*

Jet Li appreciates . . .

(From page E1)

minute. Who tell me the truth? I can't be perfect. Nobody can be perfect.'

"The audience, they don't care. They say, 'I don't like this. I like this. Do something. Show me something!' I think it was very nice thing to hear their opinion."

His following clamored for "hardcore fighting" and urged him to "do some martial arts on the ground," and so he fights without cables or computer help in this movie. There's no flying, floating, dodging bullets, skipping on water or running up walls like in "The Matrix" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Website

The 38-year-old Li, who plays a Chinese government agent who's sent to Paris and double-crossed by a corrupt French detective, also used his website recently to warn parents about taking their children to see "Kiss of the Dragon," reminding them this movie is rated R (Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian) by the Motion Picture Association of America mainly for lurid violence.

Li says he feels a personal responsibility to offer a little truth in advertising—and gets a four-month headstart in pitching his next movie, "The One," which he smilingly reveals will be rated PG-13 (Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.)

Li follows Jackie Chan, Chow Yun-Fat, Michelle Yeoh and other Asian stars to America's shores. But he got here long before them. At age 11 he came to the United States as a martial-arts prodigy representing the junior team of the People's Republic of China; he even performed on the White House lawn for a crowd that included President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

He went on to win several national championships and was scouted by Chinese movie producers for kung-fu films. But Li was small for his age, and they waited for him to fill out.

First feature

His first feature, "Shaolin Temple," was released in 1982. He earned only $700. But he became a star, receiving more than 100,000 fan letters.

After making more than 25 films, the 5-foot-6 (1.68-meter) actor made his Hollywood film debut in 1998's "Lethal Weapon 4"—getting praise as an infusion of energy in what some critics saw as a tired franchise. He followed that with last year's box-office success that mixed the Bard, hip-hop and martial arts, "Romeo Must Die."

He then turned down a role in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"—for personal reasons. He explains that he promised his wife that they would get married on the 10th anniversary of their first date—which they did on Sept. 9, 1999 (nines represent longevity in Chinese culture) - and that if she got pregnant, he would stop working till she had the baby. Daughter Jane turned 1 in April.

Even though "Crouching Tiger" went on to win four Oscars and probably was the most talked-about film of 2000, he has no regrets.

"You can make 30 or 50 movies in your life. But married, and children, maybe once or twice," says Li, who has two daughters from a brief marriage in the late '80s.

Li explains that when he came up with the story for "Kiss of the Dragon," he particularly liked the aspect of a man making a promise to a woman. (His character vows to find and return the hostage daughter of Bridget Fonda's character.)

Balance

"You need to find a balance—working and family," he says.

"When you get married, it's not finished yet; it's just started. Because you need to keep the relationship with your wife (going)."

And not just to be husband-and-wife, but best friends, and "soul mates," he says, finding the words with a little help from his assistant.

The actor, who lives in Los Angeles, brought his wife and baby with him to Paris while filming "Kiss of the Dragon," and they'll go along to China, where he'll make his next movie.

He's looking forward to that project—helmed by director Zhang Yimou ("Raise the Red Lantern")—because he anticipates martial arts will serve as a complement to a deeper story, like "Crouching Tiger."

"You want to use martial arts to talk about the story," he says.

The fighting, he says, should not be the main attraction. *AP*

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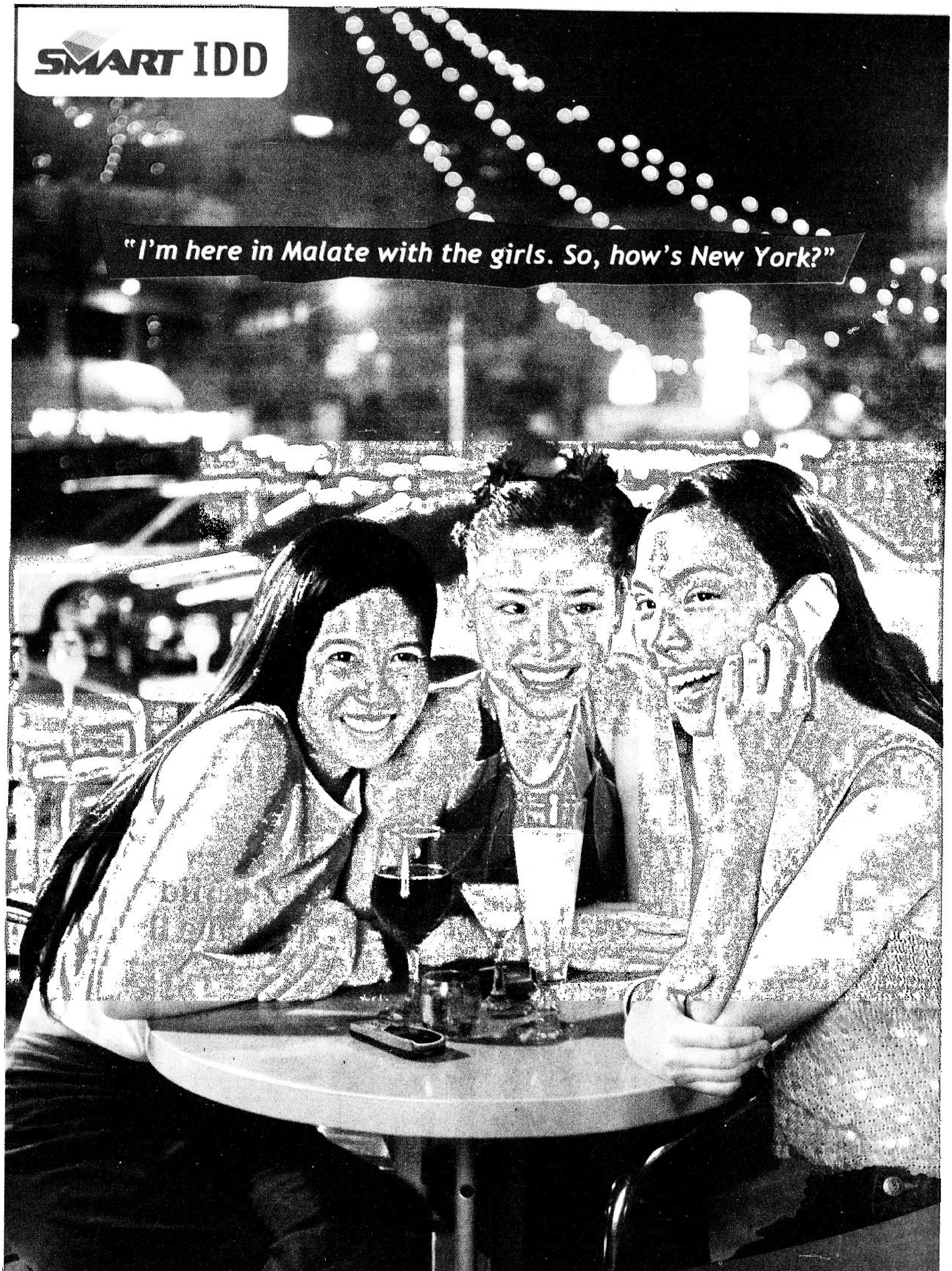
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a minute
Simply Amazing!

AM/FM

Jim Brickman's love affair with the Philippines

By Rito P. Asilo

WE TUNED in to dwLA 105.9 FM from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., and expected to get a dose of "Latino, techno, reggae and world music," as their audio ad declared. Instead, we got a smattering of songs that included even OPM, rock, rap, hip-hop and jazz.

BRICKMAN. Classically trained musician.

Diverse

Not that we are complaining about the multi-genre programming. It would have been discomfiting if the choice of songs was bad. But we did enjoy them, and this made us forget that we were sharing the midnight hours with insomniacs. The varied backgrounds of the singers made us realize how wonderfully diverse the world of music is.

We first heard Olivia Newton-John's collaboration with Jim Brickman, "Change of Heart," from his latest "My Romance" compilation. The song is testament to the former's timeless talent. She was at the peak of her career in the '80s before "Xanadu" nose-dived at the box-office, and pulled the plug on her then-scalding popularity. But at least she got to dance in it with Gene Kelly!

Brickman was then a classically-trained musician who, at 19, could no longer escape the lure of mainstream music and started writing commercial jingles, and songs for Jim Henson's "Sesame Street." If you have the "Sesame Street" album, as we used to, with Kermit the Frog crooning the dreamy "Rainbow Connection," that was Jim's composition.

Pop flavor

He later recorded a well-reviewed debut, 1994's "No Words," filled with gently lyrical New Age music, structured in style but not rigid, with an obvious pop flavor. He has even endeared himself to Filipinos, the way we have embraced David Pomeranz and Mike Francis in recent years.

To date, top Filipino recording artists have recorded his songs, among them Lea Salonga ("Even Santa Fell in Love"), Ariel Rivera ("In Lover's Eyes") and Sharon Cuneta (the yet-unreleased duet with canto-pop superstar Andy Lau, "In Your Eyes").

We also heard OPMs, including Sharon's version of the '80s Metropop classic, "Nothing I Want More," this time with original singers Louie Reyes and Eugene Villaluz doing back-up; Ivy Violan's refreshing version of "Where Do I Begin" (from "Love Story"), culled from her latest Viva album; Richard Merk's cover of the Police's "Every Breath You Take," from his own "Jazz in Time"; and a haunting Lolita Carbon-Freddie Aguilar duet.

Our appreciation for Gloria Estefan's music has been waning of late because of her increasingly schmaltzy repertoire. But if "Out of Nowhere," from her techno-influenced "Greatest Hits, Vol. 2" album, was an indication, she may have slowly re-examined her music and traced back her Latino roots.

The compilation also contains the classy ballad, "If We Were Lovers," and the lovely "Music of My Heart," her collaboration with 'N Sync, from her critically-acclaimed movie with Meryl Streep.

Jazz buff

Speaking of Latin music, jazz buff Leda Jacinto of Davao City called our attention for excluding Laura Fygi, another singer who enjoys a considerable following among Latin jazz aficionados in the Philippines, with best-selling albums like "Bewitched" (1993) and "The Lady Wants to Know" (1994), in our recent piece on Latino performers.

While Fygi sings Latin classics from Antonio Carlos Jobim to Astrud Gilberto, the soulful chanteuse is actually Dutch. She was a member of a disco group called Centerfold before she decided to go solo to pursue a more jazz-inspired career path.

We did have fun listening to the garishly provocative Geri Halliwell's campy cover of the Weather Girls' "It's Raining Men," another soundtrack song from the Renee Zellweger-Hugh Grant comedy, "Bridget Jones' Diary."

Then, there was Diane Warren's "There You'll Be," this time sung by Faith Hill, for the soundtrack of the Ben Affleck starrer, "Pearl Harbor." Unfortunately for producer Jerry Bruckheimer, the song, which was suspiciously structured a la Titanic's "My Heart Will Go On," peaked at number 10, while the soundtrack only reached number 14, in the Billboard charts.

Not even the eerie, dirge-like orchestral score of Hans Zimmer, topped by wordless vocals of soprano Julia Migenes, also a la Titanic's Sissel, could save it. Who says it's easy to be a copycat?

"One Wild Night," the last track from the "Crush" album, demonstrated Bon Jovi's multi-format appeal and polished consistency.

Edgy humor

If you have not had enough of Eminem's "Stan," with the sampling of Dido's poignant "Thank You," it's probably because of the rapper's graphically violent lyrical content, edgy humor, or his nasal-voiced rapping style—not to mention the color of his skin!

JIM/p.E7

'Larawan' features Dingdong Dantes

By Veron Dionisio

THE IDEA is not exactly new. Featuring actors in a drama anthology has been done before. To break the monotony of female lead-driven dramas, once in while, female viewers get the chance to watch male actors on the small screen. After all, men have their own stories to tell, don't they?

Men's turn

Redgie Acuna-Magno, "Larawan's" production manager, reveals that more and more women are becoming more aware of their rights and power as they demand that it's now the men's turn to be featured in TV dramas.

"Based on audience demographics, there are more women out there who would want to watch stories focused on men's struggles, since they deal not just with their manhood but also with how they relate to women," she says.

In line with this thrust, Dingdong Dantes is the show's featured artist for July. In four episodes, the good-looking young actor who's turning 21 on Aug. 2, portrays roles that depict man's perspective on friendship, life and love.

Unusual friendship

The remaining episodes include the story of an unusual friendship nurtured in very unusual circumstances in "Baseball Cup" and an interesting look at what happens when the guilty one escapes justice because of a wrong legal judgment call in "Maamong Tupa," which appears to be the most dramatically challenging of all the episodes.

DANTES. Experience is still the best teacher.

Dingdong was chosen as the program's first male lead because the people behind the program believe that he has intensity and strong screen presence. Magno recounts that during an episode of a GMA miniseries "Tuwing Kapiling Ka," film and TV director Maryo J. Delos Reyes saw Dingdong's potential as an actor.

The move overwhelms Dingdong. For sometime, he thought his career was going nowhere. "Not that I was getting impatient, I'm not really in a hurry anyway," he says. "But, when this offer came, you can just imagine how happy I was. I never really expected this!"

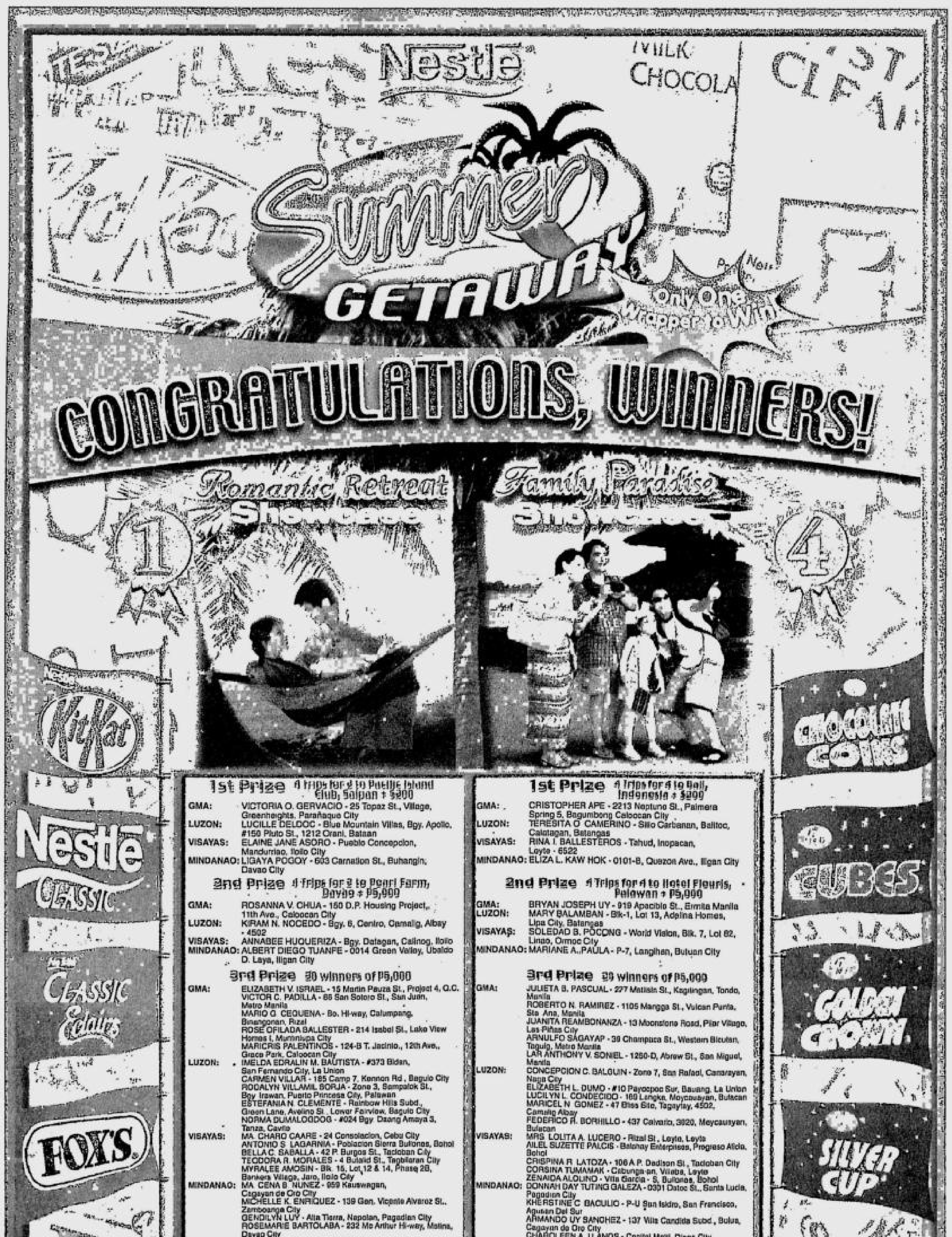
How did he prepare for this project? "I attended acting workshops. And I went through the scripts, studying the characters, try to internalize them, replies Dingdong.

Real emotions

"For me, experience is still the best teacher. Nothing can substitute for real emotions. I also believe that the actors you interact with on screen can also provide other learning opportunities."

Although GMA plans to further develop his hosting skills, Dingdong prefers to concentrate more on drama. "But it doesn't mean I won't accept offers to host a program or a show once in a while," he beams. "I also enjoy doing it."

Could this be Dingdong's big break? Will his star finally shine? He's got the looks, the talent, and the right attitude to make it big. Let's find out if all these qualities blend well in "Larawan."



1st Prize 4 trips for 2 to Pacific Island Club, Saipan + $200

GMA: VICTORIA O. GERVACIO - 25 Topaz St., Village, Greenheights, Parañaque City
LUZON: LUCILLE DELOOC - Blue Mountain Villas, Bgy. Apollo, #150 Pluto St., 1212 Orani, Bataan
VISAYAS: ELAINE JANE ASORO - Pueblo Concepcion, Mandurriao, Iloilo City
MINDANAO: LIGAYA POGOY - 603 Carnation St., Buhangin, Davao City

2nd Prize 4 trips for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + ₱5,000

GMA: ROSANNA V. CHUA - 150 D.P. Housing Project, 11th Ave., Caloocan City
LUZON: KIRAM N. NOCEDO - Bgy. 6, Centro, Camalig, Albay - 4502
VISAYAS: ANNABEE HUQUERIZA - Bgy. Datagan, Calinog, Iloilo
MINDANAO: ALBERT DIEGO TUANFE - 0014 Green Valley, Ubaldo D. Laya, Iligan City

3rd Prize 20 winners of ₱5,000

GMA: ELIZABETH V. ISRAEL - 15 Martin Pauza St., Project 4, Q.C.
VICTOR C. PADILLA - 86 San Sotero St., San Juan, Metro Manila
MARIO G. CEQUENA - Bo. Hi-way, Calumpang, Binangonan, Rizal
ROSE OFILADA BALLESTER - 214 Isabel St., Lake View Homes I, Muntinlupa City
MARICRIS PALENTINOS - 124-B T. Jacinto., 12th Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan City
LUZON: IMELDA EDRALIN M. BAUTISTA - #373 Bidan, San Fernando City, La Union
CARMEN VILLAR - 185 Camp 7, Kennon Rd., Baguio City
RODALYN VILLAMIL BORJA - Zone 3, Sampalok St., Bgy. Irawan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
ESTEFANIA N. CLEMENTE - Rainbow Hills Subd., Green Lane, Avelino St., Lower Fairview, Baguio City
NORMA DUMALOGDOG - #024 Bgy. Daang Amaya 3, Tanza, Cavite
VISAYAS: MA. CHARO CAARE - 24 Consolacion, Cebu City
ANTONIO S. LAGARNIA - Poblacion Sierra Bullones, Bohol
BELLA C. SABALLA - 42 P. Burgos St., Tacloban City
TEODORA R. MORALES - 4 Bulaid St., Tagbilaran City
MYRALEE AMOSIN - Blk. 15, Lot 12 & 14, Phase 2B, Bankers Village, Jaro, Iloilo City
MINDANAO: MA. CENA B. NUNEZ - 959 Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City
MICHELLE K. ENRIQUEZ - 139 Gen. Vicente Alvarez St., Zamboanga City
GENDILYN LUY - Alta Tierra, Napolan, Pagadian City
ROSEMARIE BARTOLABA - 232 Mc Arthur Hi-way, Matina, Davao City
BRAVO DERAMA - B3 L13, Villa Candida, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City

1st Prize 4 Trips for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200

GMA: CRISTOPHER APE - 2213 Neptuno St., Palmera Spring 5, Bagumbong Caloocan City
LUZON: TERESITA O. CAMERINO - Sitio Carbanan, Balitoc, Calatagan, Batangas
VISAYAS: RINA I. BALLESTEROS - Tahud, Inopacan, Leyte - 6522
MINDANAO: ELIZA L. KAW HOK - 0101-B, Quezon Ave., Iligan City

2nd Prize 4 Trips for 4 to Hotel Fleuris, Palawan + ₱5,000

GMA: BRYAN JOSEPH UY - 919 Apacible St., Ermita Manila
LUZON: MARY BALAMBAN - Blk-1, Lot 13, Adelina Homes, Lipa City, Batangas
VISAYAS: SOLEDAD B. POCONG - World Vision, Blk. 7, Lot 62, Linao, Ormoc City
MINDANAO: MARIANE A. PAULA - P-7, Langihan, Butuan City

3rd Prize 20 winners of ₱5,000

GMA: JULIETA B. PASCUAL - 277 Matisia St., Kagitingan, Tondo, Manila
ROBERTO N. RAMIREZ - 1105 Mangga St., Vulcan Purita, Sta. Ana, Manila
JUANITA REAMBONANZA - 13 Moonstone Road, Pilar Village, Las Piñas City
ARNULFO SAGAYAP - 39 Champaca St., Western Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila
LAR ANTHONY V. SONIEL - 1260-D, Abrew St., San Miguel, Manila
LUZON: CONCEPCION C. BALGUIN - Zone 7, San Rafael, Canarayan, Naga City
ELIZABETH L. DUMO - #10 Payocpoc Sur, Bauang, La Union
LUCILYN L. CONDECIDO - 169 Lingka, Meycauayan, Bulacan
MARICEL N. GOMEZ - 47 Bliss Site, Tagaytay, 4502, Camalig Albay
FEDERICO R. BORILLO - 437 Calvario, 3020, Meycauayan, Bulacan
VISAYAS: MRS. LOLITA A. LUCERO - Rizal St., Leyte, Leyte
AILEL SUZETTE PALCIS - Balohay Enterprises, Progreso Alicia, Bohol
CRISPINA R. LATOZA - 106 A P. Dadison St., Tacloban City
CORSINA TUMAMAK - Cabunga-an, Villaba, Leyte
ZENAIDA ALOLINO - Villa Garcia - S. Bullones, Bohol
MINDANAO: DONNAH DAY TUTING GALEZA - 0301 Datoc St., Santa Lucia, Pagadian City
KHERSTINE C. BACULIO - P-U San Isidro, San Francisco, Agusan Del Sur
ARMANDO UY SANCHEZ - 137 Villa Candida Subd., Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City
CHAROLEEN A. LLANOS - Capital Mall, Digos City
GLECERIA T. NATAD - Herobon Comp., Osmeña Ext., Tagum City

And our warmest thanks to everyone who participated. Watch out for yet another hot promo from Nestle-Goya chocolates and candies!

DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0101 s. 2001

NEW TV SHOW

Bette Midler does a Lucille Ball

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Sunday at 8 p.m., Bette Midler's sitcom, "Bette," had its first telecast on RPN-9. The show isn't doing all that great in the United States, but we enjoyed watching it last Sunday and intend to make it a regular part of our weekly viewing fare.

Occasional references

The sitcom is not just built around the Divine Ms M, but also makes occasional references to her movies ("Beaches," "The Rose"), concerts and records.

The initial telecast had a madcap quality to it that reminded us of Lucille Ball's own TV comedy programs. The style has been updated, of course, but the "crazy" comic inspiration still shows.

Midler is madcap in her own right, so the style fits her like a glove. The first episode started with a long sequence in which Midler practically expired from a bad case of nerves before the start of an important performance.

Hectic scene

Some other actresses would have run out of wind essaying the hectic scene, but Midler breezed through that zany opening sequence, effectively setting the frenetic pace for the rest of the show and its regular characters to follow.

They include her husband, their daughter, her rehearsal pianist and her manager. The characters are so idiosyncratic that they should quickly grow on viewers.

The first episode had to do with Bette's realization that she was growing old after her husband fell asleep on their first night together after she had spent two whole months on the road.

Plastic surgeon

Shocked and depressed, she decided to think and be young at any cost. She went to see a plastic surgeon, dressed like a teenybopper, rehearsed a punk-rap regimen, etc.

The exercise scene was the episode's zaniest moment because Midler launched into an increasingly ridiculous series of exercises on a funny-looking contraption specially made for the show.

Like Lucille Ball in one of her legendary comic scenes, Midler just kept building on the sequence's crazy premise, and her exercise routines quickly went from loopy to ludicrous.

MIDLER. Madcap quality.

Running gag

The running gag in the episode was Midler's competitive relationship with Sally Field, whom she dissed with venomous passion every five minutes or so.

To fully enjoy this sitcom, therefore, viewers should be well-versed on show biz trivia about Midler and Field, as well as other stars whose names are occasionally dropped on the program, or who make cameo appearances in the show.

Last Sunday, the guest star was Danny DeVito, who played himself in a party scene in which he offered Midler a role in his next TV special. Little did Midler know when she accepted the offer that she was being cast as DeVito's *mother*!

Insecurities

Midler's friends tried to keep the news away from her because it would add to her insecurities about growing old. After all, with his bald pate and hangdog look, DeVito looked old enough to be her *grandfather*!

"Bette" is only 30 minutes long, but it packs more comic wallop than some local sitcoms that are three times as long.

Our sitcom writers and directors would do well to watch "Bette," to see how they could speed up the comic action in their own shows. Of course, they don't have Bette Midler acting in them, but they could learn valuable lessons related to other program elements that need improving.

SMART IDD
"Cindy, the gang's all here. How are the beaches there in Hawaii?"

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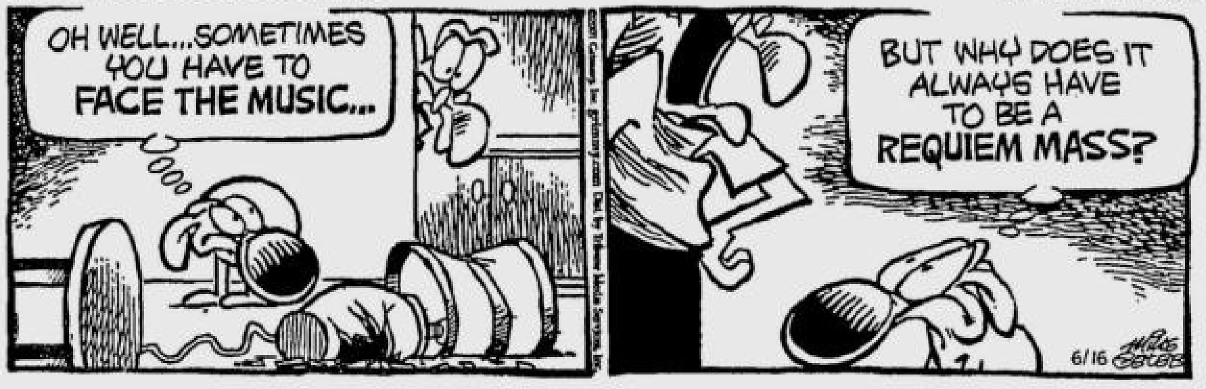
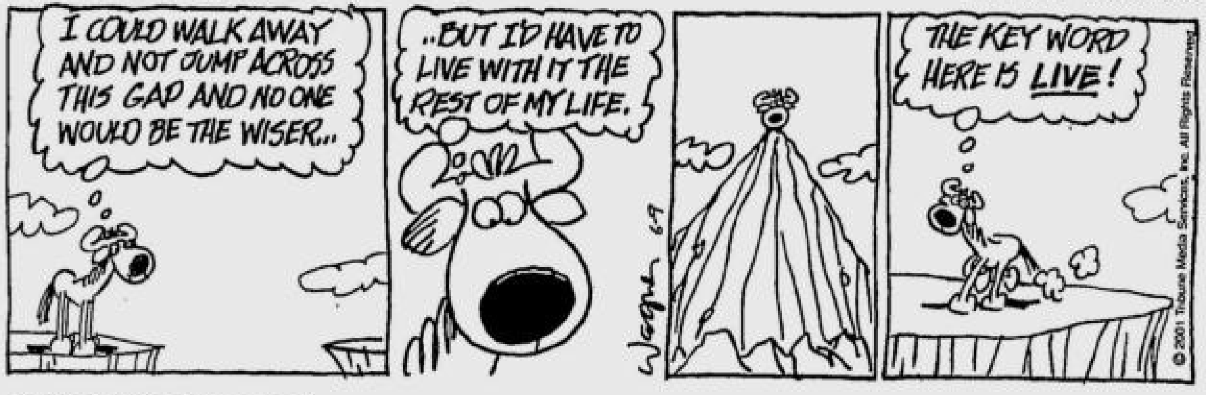
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OH WELL...SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO FACE THE MUSIC...
BUT WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE A REQUIEM MASS?
6/16

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I COULD WALK AWAY AND NOT JUMP ACROSS THIS GAP AND NO ONE WOULD BE THE WISER...
..BUT I'D HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT THE REST OF MY LIFE.
THE KEY WORD HERE IS LIVE!
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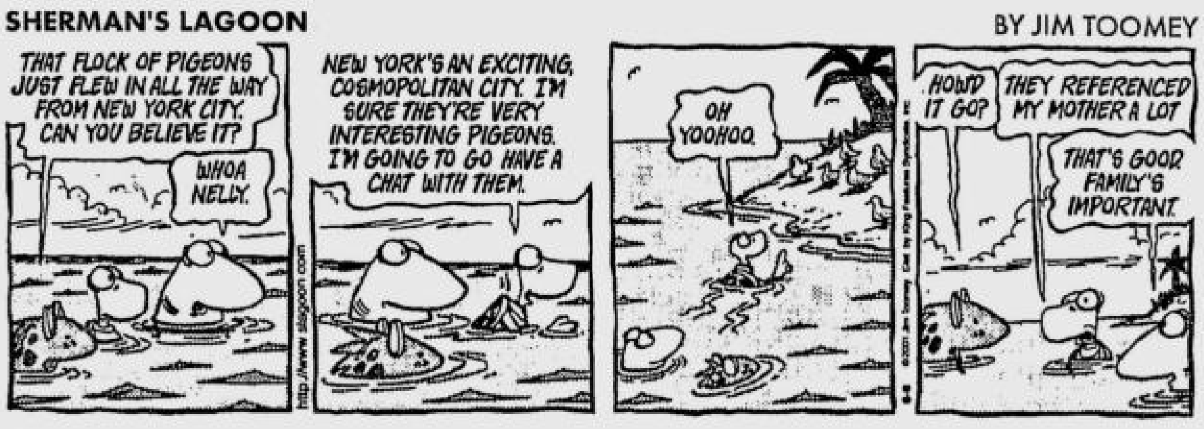
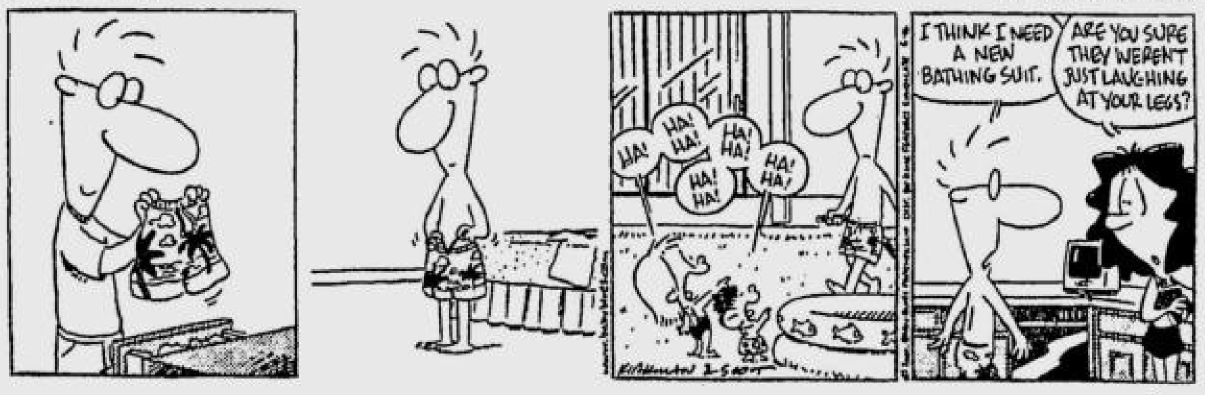
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THAT FLOCK OF PIGEONS JUST FLEW IN ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK CITY. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
WHOA NELLY.
NEW YORK'S AN EXCITING, COSMOPOLITAN CITY. I'M SURE THEY'RE VERY INTERESTING PIGEONS. I'M GOING TO GO HAVE A CHAT WITH THEM.
http://www.slagoon.com
OH YOOHOO.
HOW'D IT GO?
THEY REFERENCED MY MOTHER A LOT
THAT'S GOOD. FAMILY'S IMPORTANT.

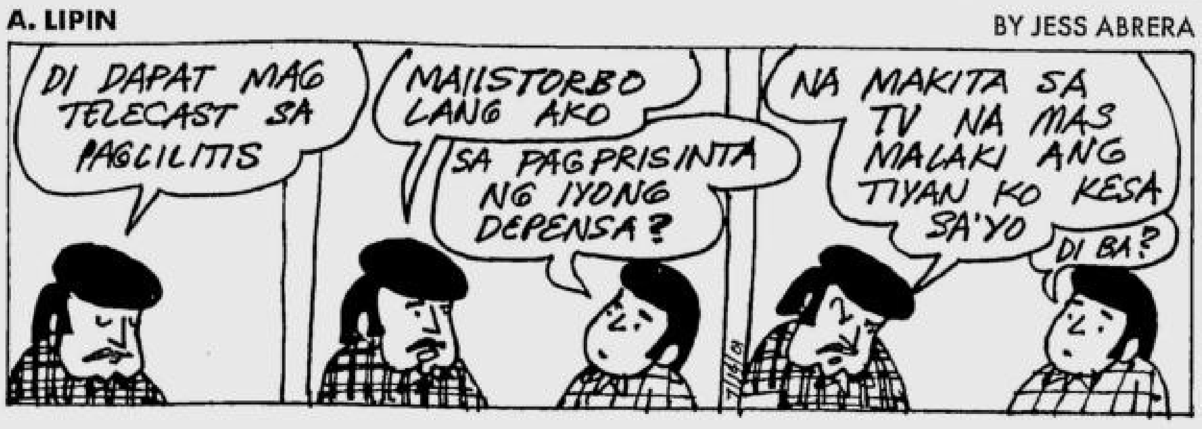
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
I THINK I NEED A NEW BATHING SUIT.
ARE YOU SURE THEY WEREN'T JUST LAUGHING AT YOUR LEGS?

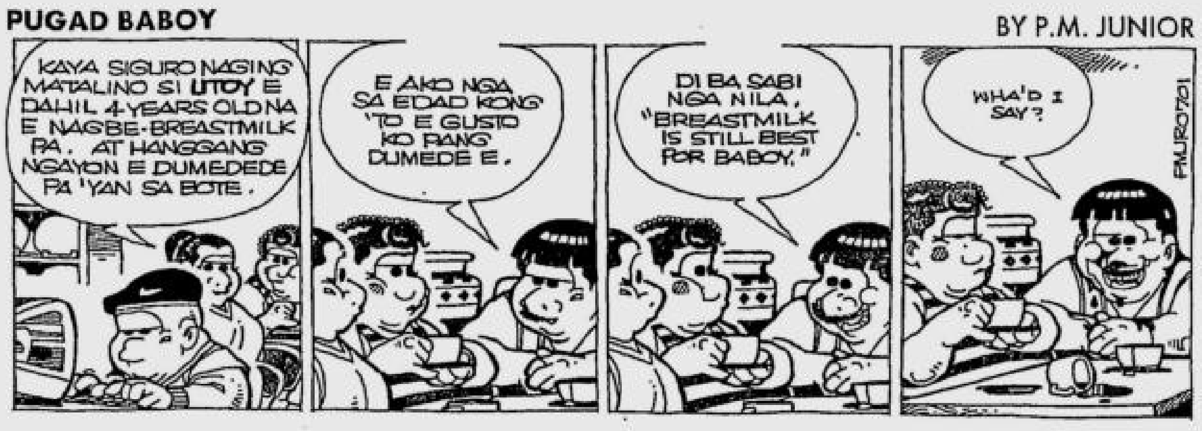
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DI DAPAT MAG TELECAST SA PAGLILITIS
MAIISTORBO LANG AKO
SA PAGPRISINTA NG IYONG DEPENSA?
NA MAKITA SA TV NA MAS MALAKI ANG TIYAN KO KESA SA'YO
DI BA?

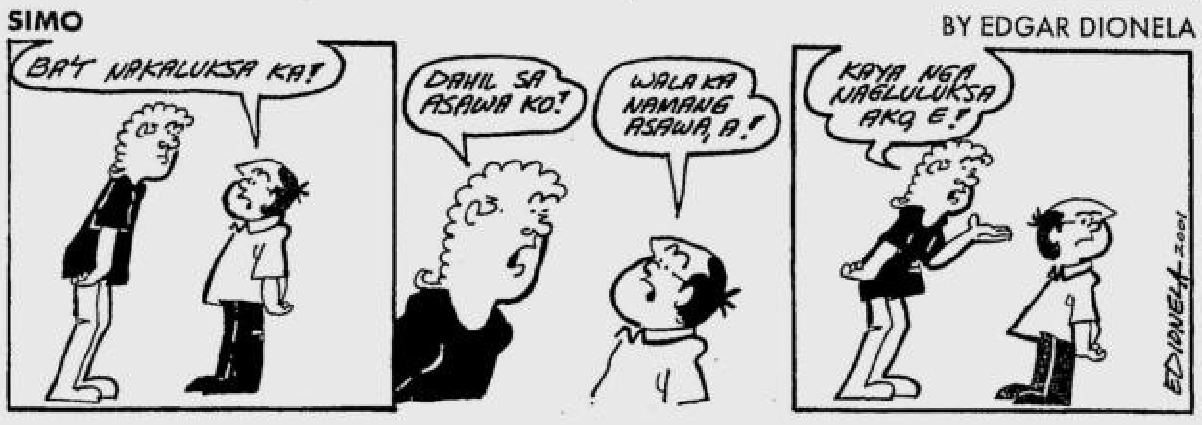
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAYA SIGURO NAGING MATALINO SI UTOY E DAHIL 4-YEARS OLD NA E NAGBE-BREASTMILK PA. AT HANGGANG NGAYON E DUMEDEDE PA 'YAN SA BOTE.
E AKO NGA SA EDAD KONG 'TO E GUSTO KO RANG DUMEDE E.
DI BA SABI NGA NILA, "BREASTMILK IS STILL BEST FOR BABOY."
WHA'D I SAY?
PMJR070701

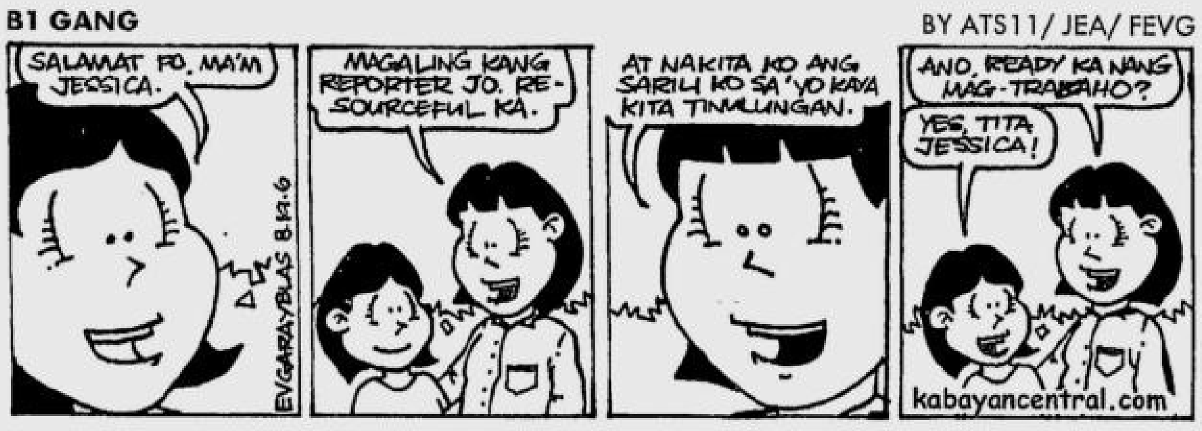
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BA'T NAKALUKSA KA?
DAHIL SA ASAWA KO!
WALA KA NAMANG ASAWA, A!
KAYA NGA NAGLULUKSA AKO E!
EDIONELA 2001

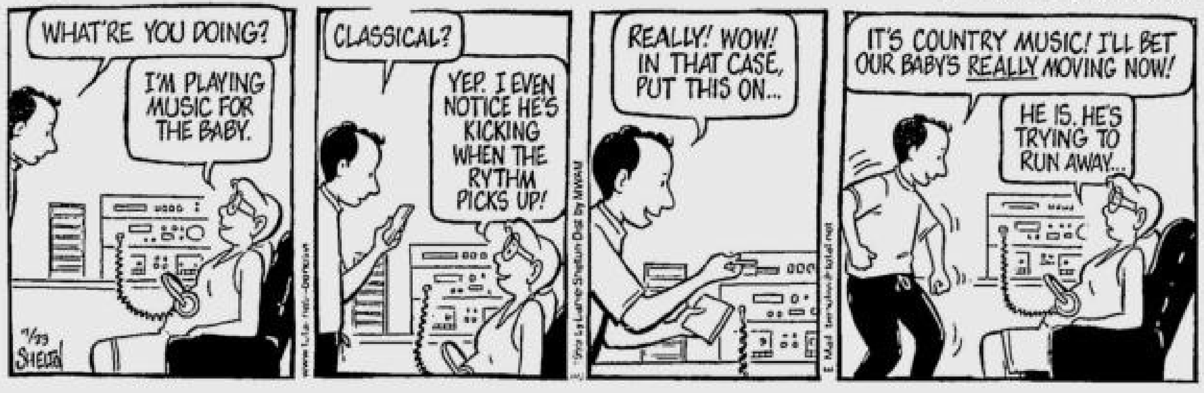
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SALAMAT PO, MA'M JESSICA.
MAGALING KANG REPORTER JO. RESOURCEFUL KA.
AT NAKITA KO ANG SARILI KO SA 'YO KAYA KITA TINULUNGAN.
ANO, READY KA NANG MAG-TRABAHO?
YES, TITA JESSICA!
kabayancentral.com

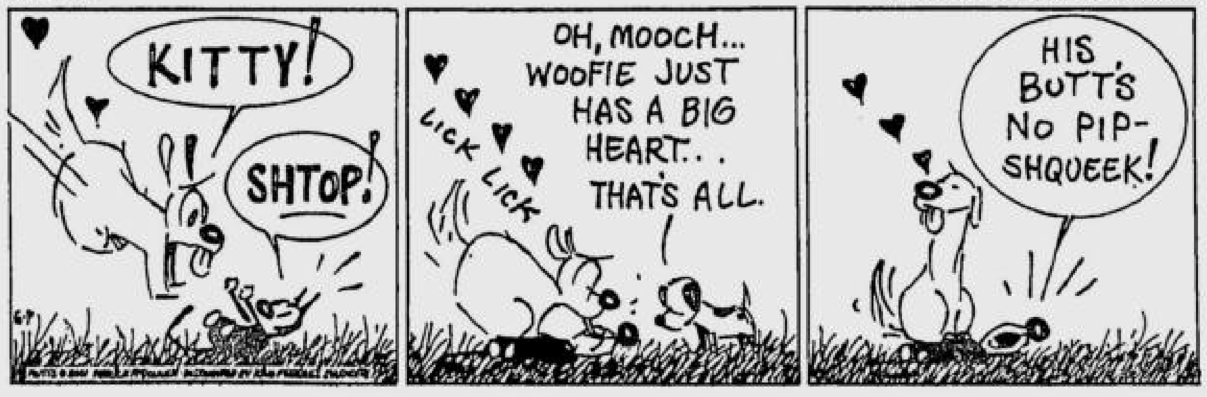
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I'M PLAYING MUSIC FOR THE BABY.
CLASSICAL?
YEP. I EVEN NOTICE HE'S KICKING WHEN THE RYTHM PICKS UP!
REALLY! WOW! IN THAT CASE, PUT THIS ON...
IT'S COUNTRY MUSIC! I'LL BET OUR BABY'S REALLY MOVING NOW!
HE IS. HE'S TRYING TO RUN AWAY...

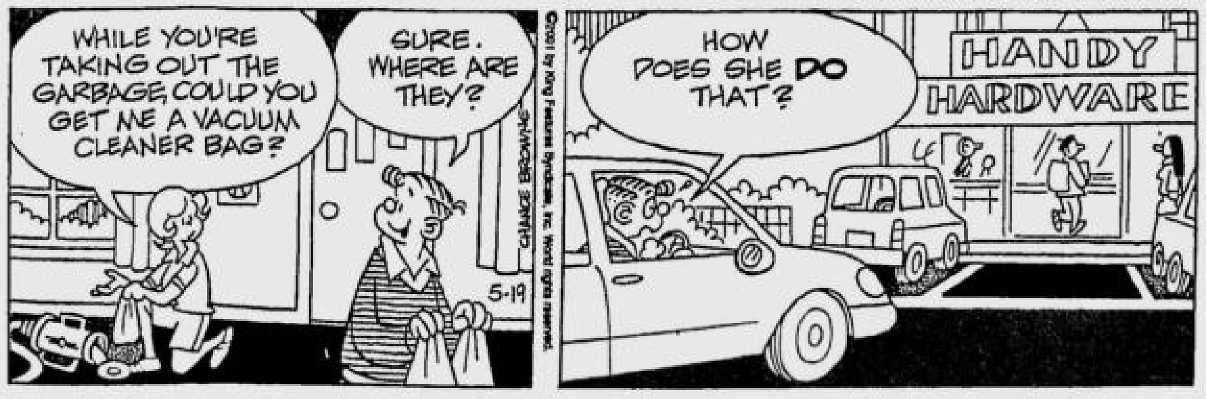
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


KITTY!
SHTOP!
LICK LICK
OH, MOOCH... WOOFIE JUST HAS A BIG HEART... THAT'S ALL.
HIS BUTT'S NO PIP-SHQUEEK!

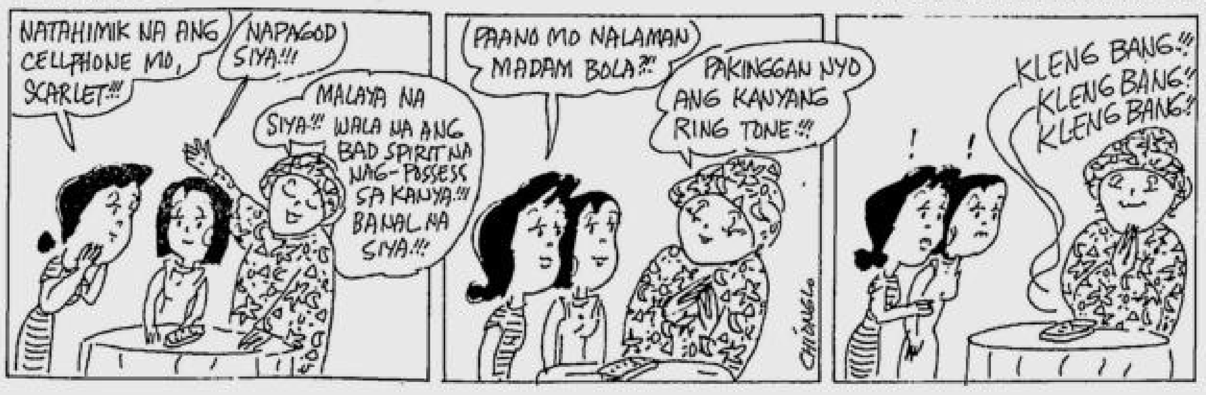
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHILE YOU'RE TAKING OUT THE GARBAGE, COULD YOU GET ME A VACUUM CLEANER BAG?
SURE. WHERE ARE THEY?
HOW DOES SHE DO THAT?
HANDY HARDWARE
5-19

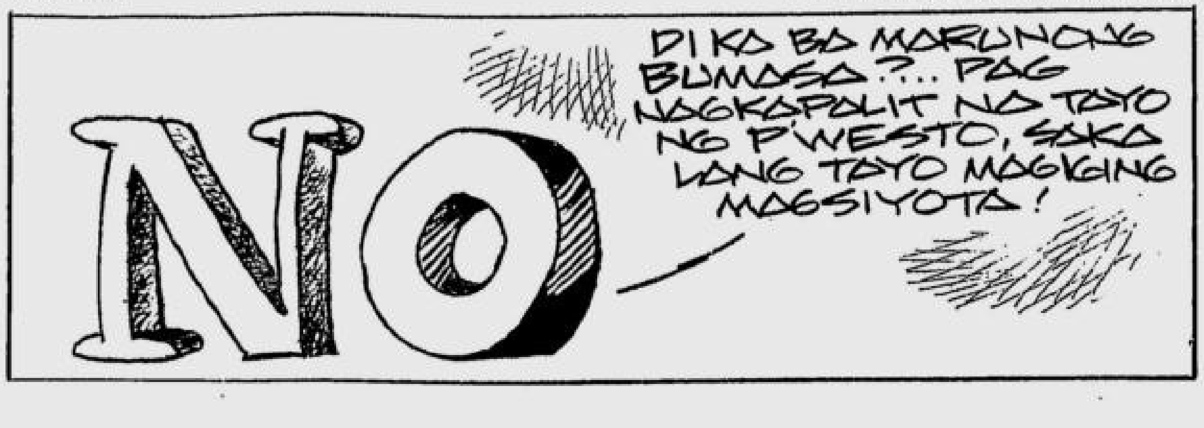
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NATAHIMIK NA ANG CELLPHONE MO, SCARLET!!!
NAPAGOD SIYA!!!
MALAYA NA SIYA!!! WALA NA ANG BAD SPIRIT NA NAG-POSSESS SA KANYA!!! BANAL NA SIYA!!!
PAANO MO NALAMAN MADAM BOLA?!!
PAKINGGAN NYO ANG KANYANG RING TONE!!!
KLENG BANG!!! KLENG BANG!!! KLENG BANG!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


NO
DI KA BA MARUNONG BUMASA?... PAG NAGKAPALIT NA TAYO NG P'WESTO, SAKA LANG TAYO MAGIGING MAGSIYOTA!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ingmar Bergman, Matthew Fox, Polly Bergen, Harry Dean Stanton, Patrick Kennedy

Happy Birthday: Slow down. You will have a tendency to take on too much too fast this year. Focus, discipline and desire will be the key factors needed to help you see matters through. If you become bored, you will lose sight of your goals. Take the time to think through each step necessary to accomplish your goals. Your numbers: 15, 18, 24, 28, 35, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will have a tendency to be overly emotional. Try to let comments made by your personal partner pass. You don't want to start an unnecessary argument.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Secrets will come back to haunt you. Don't let minor ailments get out of hand. Tend to them quickly and spare yourself from needless grief.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Greater involvement in groups and organizations will be conducive to romantic interludes. Your contribution to events will be well-received and enhance your reputation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your personal life is likely to disrupt your daily routines. Take the time to clear these matters up once and for all. You can't go on taking the brunt of the situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Family outings will be upsetting for older relatives. Be sure that you don't push them to do things that they really don't want to do. Have patience and understanding.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will become fed up with being forced to deal with other people's problems. Focus on your family and tell everyone else that they will have to fend for themselves. You can't do everything for everyone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Uncertainties about your relationship could be causing more upset than you thought. Take some time to be alone, and question your motives regarding an individual who has been pursuing you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Underhandedness is quite possible. Be careful if you are socializing with colleagues. You must avoid gossip and refrain from pointing the finger at someone else for their shortcomings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Opportunities to meet new people will irritate your partner. Keep an open mind and don't be too flirtatious. Deception regarding joint finances may surface. Check your bankbook.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Problems will exist in your home if you have been avoiding the complaints that your mate has been making. You must deal with matters if you wish to remain in this relationship.

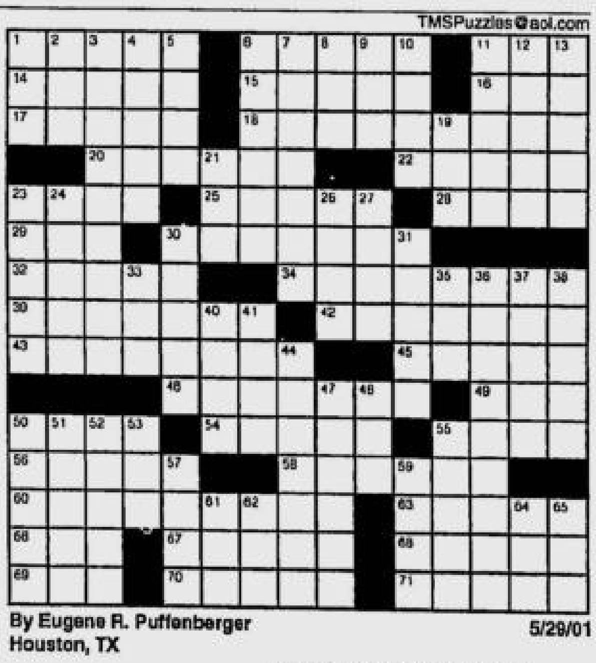
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Romance can be yours if you're ready to make a commitment. Don't be afraid to introduce someone special to the rest of your family. Don't be concerned about their immediate reactions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will get along well with others. Get together with friends that work in the same industry as you. Exploring your interests will lead you toward intellectual people.

Birthday Baby: You have an excellent memory. That plus your sensitive and genuine nature will win you the acclaim you desire throughout life. You are loyal, dedicated and quick to decipher what's going on around you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

5/29/01

ACROSS
1 Maui's neighbor
6 Elected
11 Journalist Hentoff
14 "Reversal of Fortune" star Jeremy
15 Felony
16 Bother
17 "Hemingway's Chair" author Michael
18 Hall of Fame pitcher
20 From the stars
22 Biblical poem
23 P[illegible] of a pl[illegible]e
25 Yellowish white
28 Swiss artist
29 Sale-tag abbr.
30 Sticks
32 Cat with a mouse, e.g.
34 Like a rawhide chew-toy
39 Similar things
42 Coerce forcefully
43 Lacking ethics
45 Attempt to disprove
46 Least possible
49 Rebuke of disgust
50 Castle defense
54 Have scruples
55 Sly look
56 March follower
58 Of a wedding
60 Hall of Fame pitcher
63 Wing it
66 Unspecified individual
67 Yankee Yogi
68 Escapee
69 Crimson or scarlet
70 Impudent
71 __ firma

DOWN
1 Back talk
2 Altar of stars
3 Hall of Fame pitcher
4 Licorice flavoring
5 Negative contraction
6 Page size
7 Drag out
8 Kazurinsky or Conway
9 Printer's measures
10 Profound
11 Sea-going
12 Astaire's sister
13 Crooner Mel
19 Make a request
21 __ de la Plata
23 Greek giant
24 University of Maine town
26 Melon covering
27 Twelve months
30 Halloween ride?
31 Multitude
33 "A Nightmare on __ Street"
35 Grow older
36 Hall of Fame pitcher
37 Comic Anderson
38 Come in!
40 Crisscross framework
41 Sensible
44 Loosens (up)
47 Bill or Anne
48 Tell's canton
50 Military officer
51 Venture a thought
52 Packing heat
53 Useful hint
55 Soup server
57 Sci. classes
59 Foolish
61 Poetic meadow
62 "__ Miniver"
64 Last of cash?
65 Bikini top

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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5/29/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

Listening to Mari's debut album is a delight

By Jocelyn Valle

STAR Records' newest artist, Mari, was born in Rome 18 years ago and grew up in London. She used to spend summers here but last year, Mari decided to stay in her parents' homeland and try her luck in the local music industry.

Carrier single

So far, so good. She copped the bronze medal at the Asia Music Festival 2000 in Shanghai, China with her superb interpretation of the Vehnee Saturno-Nino Volante collaboration, "Sing But One Song." Her self-titled debut album is now out in the market, with its carrier single, "Alipin Ako," getting a lot of airplay.

These wonderful developments in Mari's young career don't surprise the people who are close to her. After all, they've heard her sing since she was three years old. "We have a videoke machine at home," she shares, adding that her dad loves to croon, too.

When she turned nine, Mari relates, she joined and won the London version of "Tanghalan ng Kampeon" with the vocally challenging piece, "Power of Love." The experience and the song are both memorable to Mari, that's why she constantly performs that particular Celion Dion hit in her shows.

Mari attended the Sylvia Young Theatre School for her secondary schooling. "It's like the school in 'Fame,'" says. "We had academic subjects but instead of the other subjects like home economics, we had lessons in dance, music, all-around performing *talaga*. I was also able to perform in Spain and Switzerland. Super *saya*!"

Private lessons

At the same time, Mari took private lessons in singing. She continued competing until she was chosen as one of Great Britain's Most Talented out of 25,000 contestants. "I was the only Filipino there," she recalls. "I sang 'Wind Beneath My Wings.'"

During the recent album launch of "Mari," the dusky singer dished out "Alipin Ako," "Sing But One Song" and "It's All Coming Back To Me Now," and we could imagine how she was able to tackle Bette Midler's original in the British songfest.

Her voice and singing style have shades of her favorites divas like Mariah Carey, Celion Dion and Lani Misalucha, and likewise remind us of Whitney Houston. But Mari is able to inject her own personality, thus sounding like no other.

She has a deep, full-bodied voice and she exploits this as she teaches for the high notes. The result is surprisingly pleasant. Mari spares the listeners the irritating effects some "*birit*" singers are wont to give them.

Saturno agrees: "*Nang una kong marinig, sabi ko, 'Grabe ang batang ito.' Magaling! Hindi tunog bata. Parang* Ella Mae Sayson *ang dating niya. Isa na siya sa mga mahusay na* artists *na nakatrabaho ko.*"

Enthralled

Star Records executive Vilma S. Selga is equally enthralled. "*Nang dinala siya sa amin ng mga* managers *at saka* daddy *niya, pinakanta namin siya at na*-impress *kami*. Standout *ang* vocal talent *niya*."

Listening to the 14-track "Mari" is a delight. Mari is particularly effective in her version of Elton John's "Skyline Pigeon," which, she informs us, is her dad's favorite song.

Sentimental ballads dominate Mari's initial recording, making her wish for more dance tunes in her next CD. But we agree with the producers' judgment. The slow, passionate tunes highlight the young singer's powerful voice. In time, though, we hope that she will be able to add more nuances and texture to her vocal interpretations.

Maybe if she perfected her Tagalog? It's a lot better than what most *balikbayan* artists can speak, but Mari admits that she still needs a vocal coach to help her with the intonation, pronunciation and comprehension of some Filipino words.

MARI. Her singing voice is deep, full bodied.

Jim . . .

(From page E4)

Long before his "The Marshall Mathers LP" became the fastest selling rap album of all time (almost two million sold on the first week of its release!), it's amusing to note that Eminem won second place at the 1997 Rap Olympics MC Battle in L.A. So, even rap music has its own Olympics now? Maybe Eminem can teach Vanilla Ice a thing or two about how best to survive rap music.

We also heard Ricky Martin's latest generic shake-your-bonbon ditty, "Loaded," from his "Sound Loaded" album. Enrique Martin Morales in real life, Ricky joined the US soap, "General Hospital," after he left Menudo. His stint on the soap led him to his stage outing as Marius in "Les Miserables." He stayed with the musical for one year, before breaking out as a solo recording superstar.

A regular collaborator, Robby Rosa, arguably the most popular vocalist of the Puerto Rican boy group, writes a number of songs under an alias—"Ian Blake." If you read that name in the credits of his albums, that's Robby! But why would anyone hide under a different name? Hmmm… He's probably…shy?

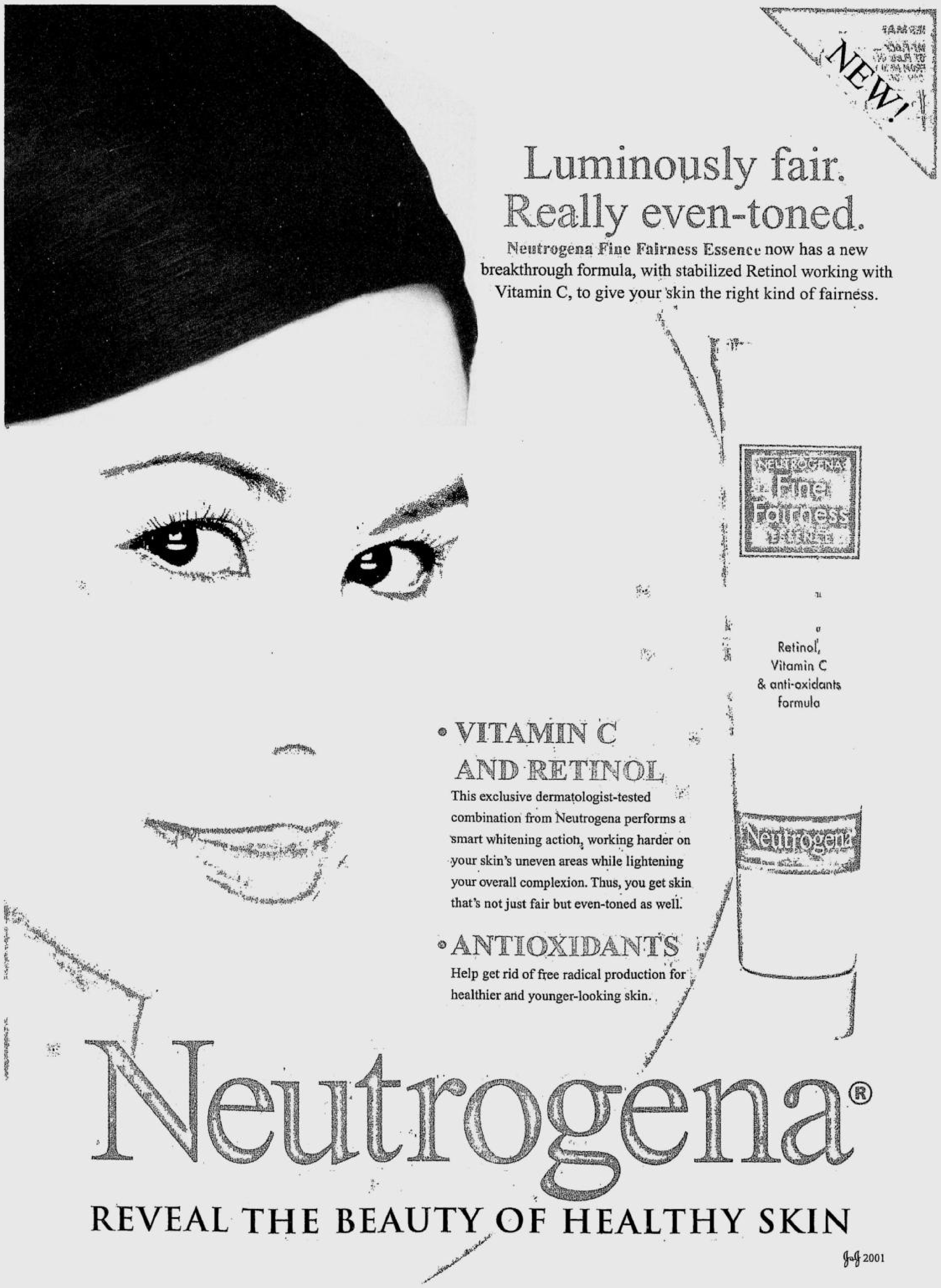
Reggae-tinged

Another remake played was Boy George's reggae-tinged "Everything I Own," Bread's 1972 classic that has been covered by singers from different genre: Crystal Gayle (country), Andy Williams (pop standard), Olivia Newton-John (adult contemporary), and even 'N Sync (pop).

What makes the song doubly interesting is the fact that, although there are local bands like Put3Ska and Myra Ruaro's Brownbeat All-Stars that cater to this type of music, characterized by a skittering guitar groove and syncopated rhythms, reggae is not that popular in the Philippines.

The only personalities that come to mind when we think of reggae are Bob Marley and his son, Ziggy, Sonny and Cher, and pop-oriented bands, like UB40, which allow reggae to cross over to mainstream audiences.

Reggae is unique to Jamaica but, ironically, has roots in New Orleans R&B. Its direct forefather is ska, an uptempo musical variation. It is said that during one very hot summer, when it was too hot to play ska or dance to it, musicians decided to slow down the beat and -*voila*!- reggae was born.



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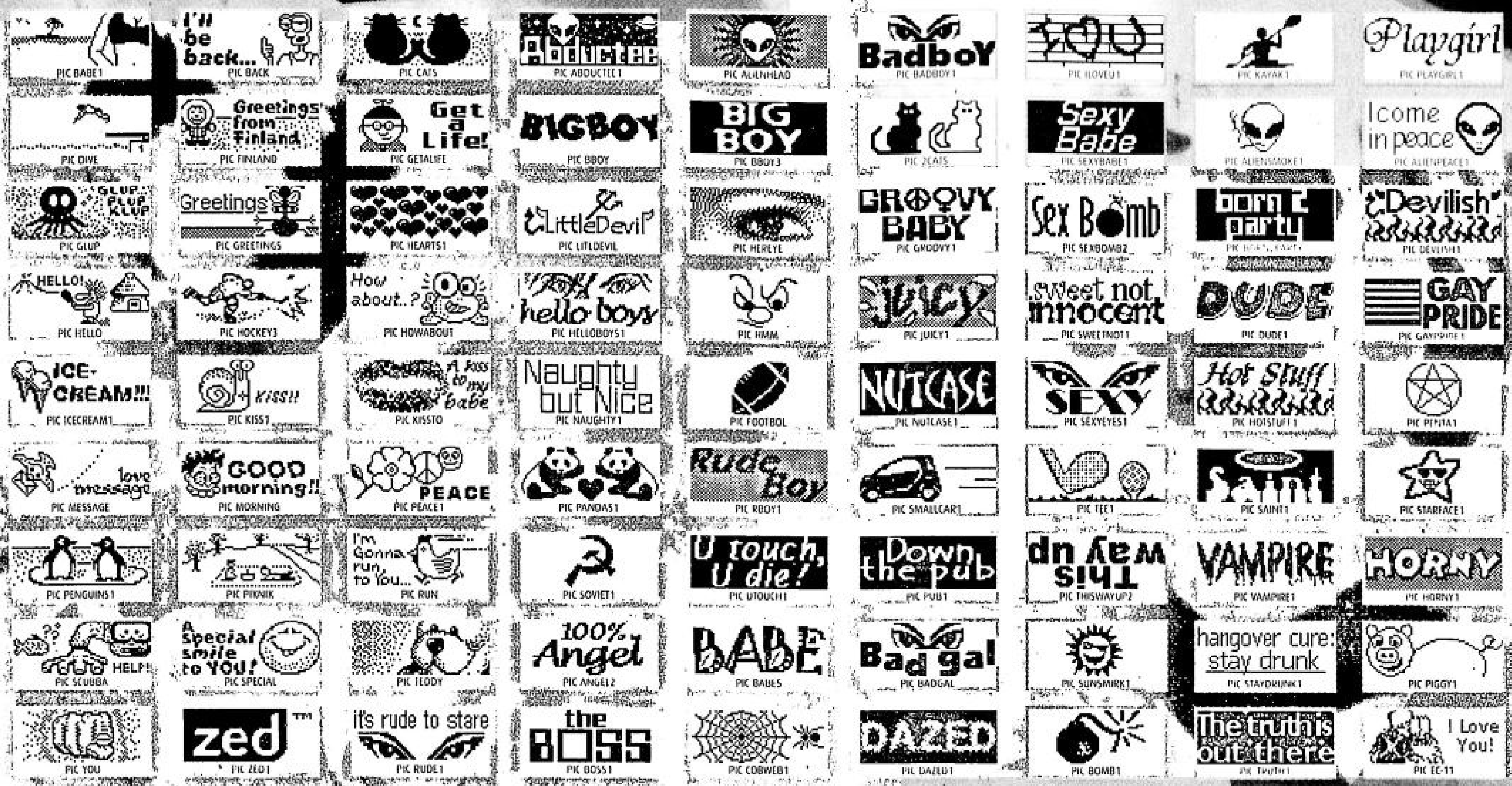
PIC BABE1
PIC BACK
PIC CATS
PIC ABDUCTEE1
PIC ALIENHEAD
PIC BADBOY1
PIC ILOVEU1
PIC KAYAK1
PIC PLAYGIRL1
PIC DIVE
PIC FINLAND
PIC GETALIFE
PIC BBOY
PIC BBOY3
PIC 2CATS
PIC SEXYBABE1
PIC ALIENSMOKE1
PIC ALIENPEACE1
PIC GLUP
PIC GREETINGS
PIC HEARTS1
PIC LITLDEVIL
PIC HEREYE
PIC GROOVY1
PIC SEXBOMB2
PIC DEVILISH1
PIC HELLO
PIC HOCKEY3
PIC HOWABOUT
PIC HELLOBOYS1
PIC HMM
PIC JUICY1
PIC SWEETNOT1
PIC DUDE1
PIC GAYPRIDE1
PIC ICECREAM1
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PIC PIKNIK
PIC RUN
PIC SOVIET1
PIC UTOUCH1
PIC PUB1
PIC THISWAYUP2
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PIC SPECIAL
PIC TEDDY
PIC ANGEL2
PIC BABES
PIC BADGAL
PIC SUNSMIRK1
PIC STAYDRUNK1
PIC PIGGY1
PIC YOU
PIC ZED1
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PIC DAZED1
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PIC TRUTH1
PIC EC-11

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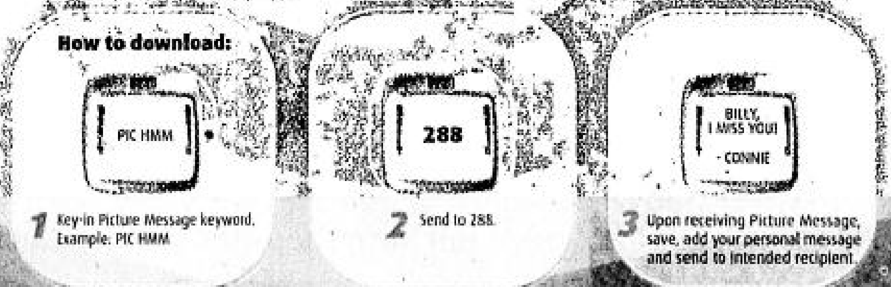
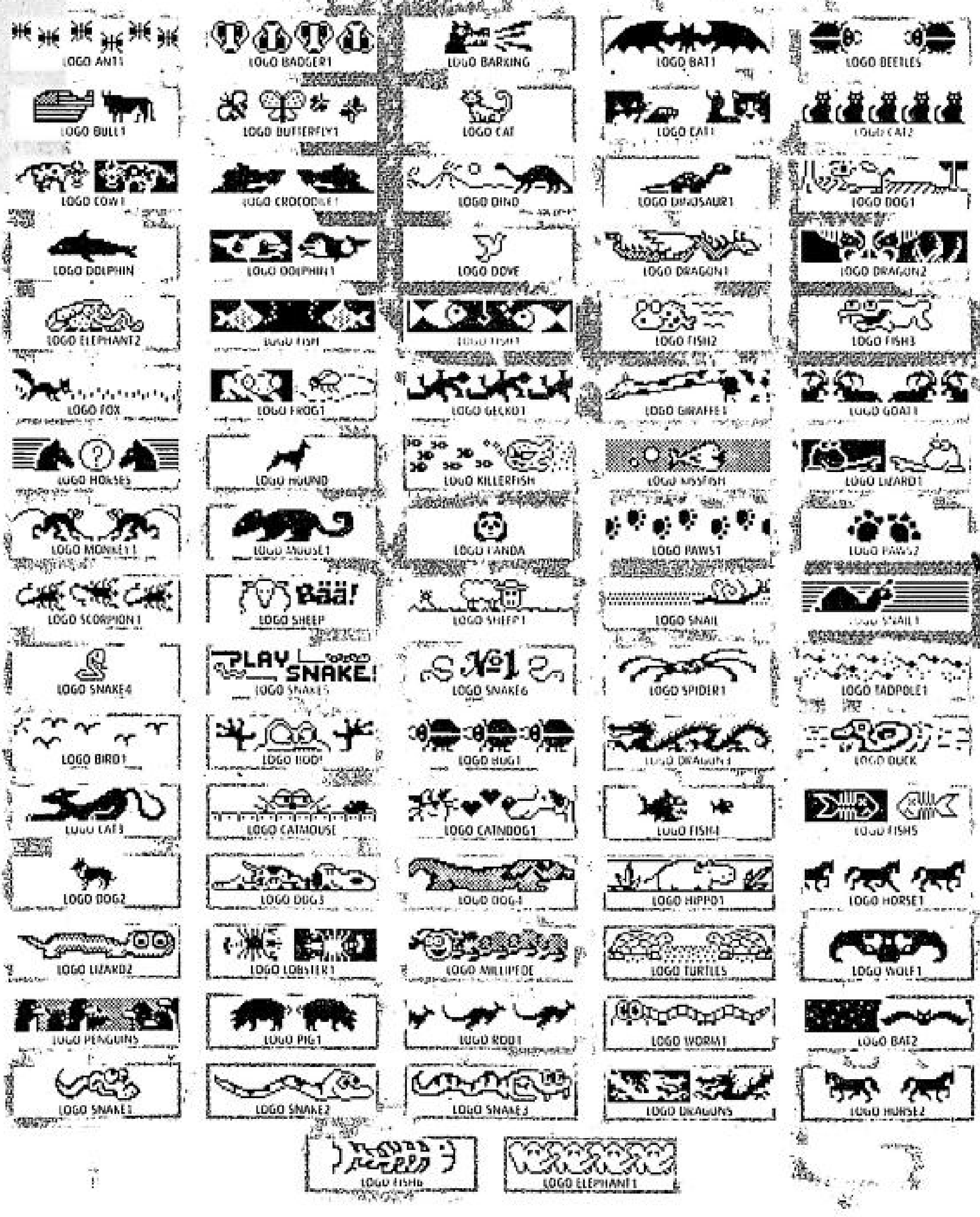

PIC HMM
288
BILLY, I MISS YOU!
- CONNIE

1 Key-in Picture Message keyword. Example: PIC HMM

2 Send to 288.

3 Upon receiving Picture Message, save, add your personal message and send to intended recipient.

Animal Logos


LOGO ANTS
LOGO BADGER1
LOGO BARKING
LOGO BAT1
LOGO BEETLES
LOGO BULL1
LOGO BUTTERFLY1
LOGO CAT
LOGO CAT1
LOGO CAT2
LOGO COW1
LOGO CROCODILE1
LOGO DINO
LOGO DINOSAUR1
LOGO DOG1
LOGO DOLPHIN
LOGO DOLPHIN1
LOGO DOVE
LOGO DRAGON1
LOGO DRAGON2
LOGO ELEPHANT2
LOGO FISH
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LOGO FROG1
LOGO GECKO1
LOGO GIRAFFE1
LOGO GOAT1
LOGO HORSES
LOGO HOUND
LOGO KILLERFISH
LOGO KISSFISH
LOGO LIZARD1
LOGO MONKEY1
LOGO MOUSE1
LOGO PANDA
LOGO PAWS1
LOGO PAWS2
LOGO SCORPION1
LOGO SHEEP
LOGO SHEEP1
LOGO SNAIL
LOGO SNAIL1
LOGO SNAKE4
LOGO SNAKE5
LOGO SNAKE6
LOGO SPIDER1
LOGO TADPOLE1
LOGO BIRD1
LOGO BUG1
LOGO DUCK
LOGO CAT3
LOGO CATMOUSE
LOGO CATNDOG1
LOGO FISH4
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LOGO HORSE1
LOGO LIZARD2
LOGO LOBSTER1
LOGO MILLIPEDE
LOGO TURTLES
LOGO WOLF1
LOGO PENGUINS
LOGO PIG1
LOGO ROD1
LOGO WORM1
LOGO BAT2
LOGO SNAKE1
LOGO SNAKE2
LOGO SNAKE3
LOGO DRAGONS
LOGO HORSE2
LOGO FISH6
LOGO ELEPHANT1

Pop Ring Tones

Description	Artist/Composer	Keyword
99 Luft Balloons	Joern Fahrenkig-Peterson/Karlo Karges/Kevin	TONE 99RED
Again	Janet Jackson	TONE AGAIN
All The Small Things	Blink 182	TONE SMALTING
Always Something There	Naked Eyes	TONE SUMTINDER
Am I The Same Girl	Swingout Sisters/Eugene Recor/William Sander	TONE SAMEGIRL
Breakfast At Tiffany's	Deep Blue Something/Todd Pipes	TONE TIFFANYS
Breakout	Swingout Sisters	TONE BRKOUT
Closing Time	Semisonic	TONE CLOSTIME
Dreaming Of You	Selena	TONE DRIMOFU
Every Little Thing She Does	Sting	TONE LITLTHNG
Genie In A Bottle	Cristina Aguilera	TONE GENIE
I Knew I Love You	Savage Garden/Darren Hayes/Daniel Jones	TONE IKNWLUVU
I Love You Always Forever	Donna Lewis	TONE LUVULWYS
I Try	Macy Gray	TONE ITRY
Kiss From A Rose	Seal	TONE KISFROSE
Kiss Me	Six Pence None The Richer/Mathew Slocum	TONE KISSME
Lambada	Reginaldo Francisco	TONE LAMBADA
Love Is All Around	Wet Wet Wet	TONE FOURWED
Love Is All That Matters	Diane Warren	TONE LUVMATR
Love Me For A Reason	Boyzone	TONE LUV4RISN
Open Your Heart	Madonna	TONE OPENUR
Pretty Fly	Offspring	TONE PRETIFLY
Save A Prayer	Duran Duran	TONE SAVPRYR
Scar Tissue	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE SCARTIS
Shout	Tears For Fears	TONE SHOUT
Somebody	Martin Gore/Alan Wilder	TONE SUMBODY
Suburbia	Pet Shop Boys	TONE SUBURB
Sweet Child Of Mine	Guns N' Roses	TONE SWEETCHI
Take On Me	Aha	TONE TAKEONME
Too Close	Next	TONE 2CLOSE
Truly Madly Deeply	Savage Garden/Darren Hayes/Daniel Jones	TONE TRULYMAD
Unbelievable	EMF-DENCH/Aatkin/Foley/Decleot/Brownson	TONE UNBELIV
Wake Me Up Before You Go Go	Wham	TONE WAKEMEUP
What A Girl Wants	Cristina Aguilera	TONE WHATAGIRL
You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling	Hall & Oates	TONE LOSTLOVN

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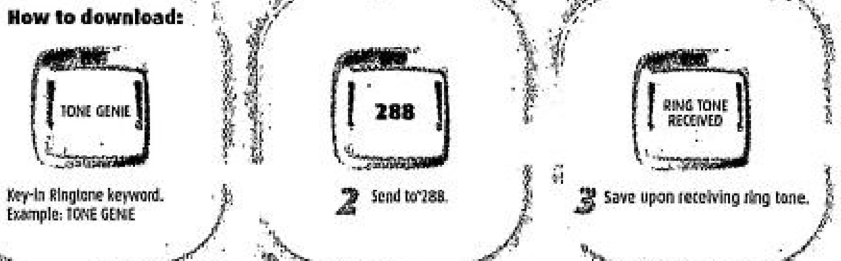
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288
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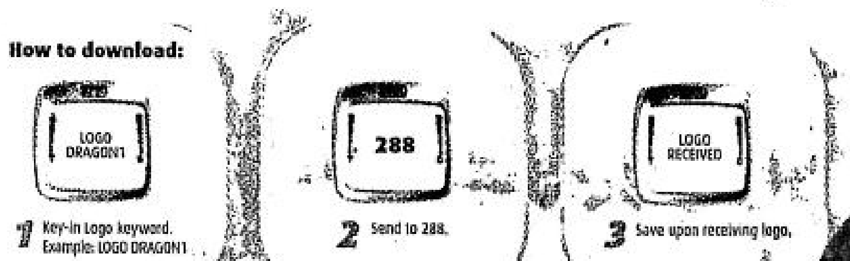
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Combs puts focus back on entertainment with new album and movie

COMBS WITH HIS MOTHER. About to make his acting debut in the film, "Made."

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Sean "Puffy" Combs won't mind if critics say his latest album is raw, unpolished and without any real theme. That's the way he planned it.

Hip-hop mogul

After a year in which he successfully fought criminal charges and lost his high-profile girlfriend, the hip-hop mogul just wanted to put out something that would make people want to party.

"That's why everything is so carefree, everything is so positive," he said of his new album, which is being released the same week he makes his acting debut (as a gangster) in the movie "Made."

"I lived in a murky pit—a negative, murky pit for like a year and half straight," he said.

Combs' album is titled "P. Diddy & The Bad Boy Family . . . The Saga Continues." (Puffy moniker fans, take heart—he still goes by the name of Puffy, or Puff Daddy. He says an announcement after the

COMBS/ p.F2

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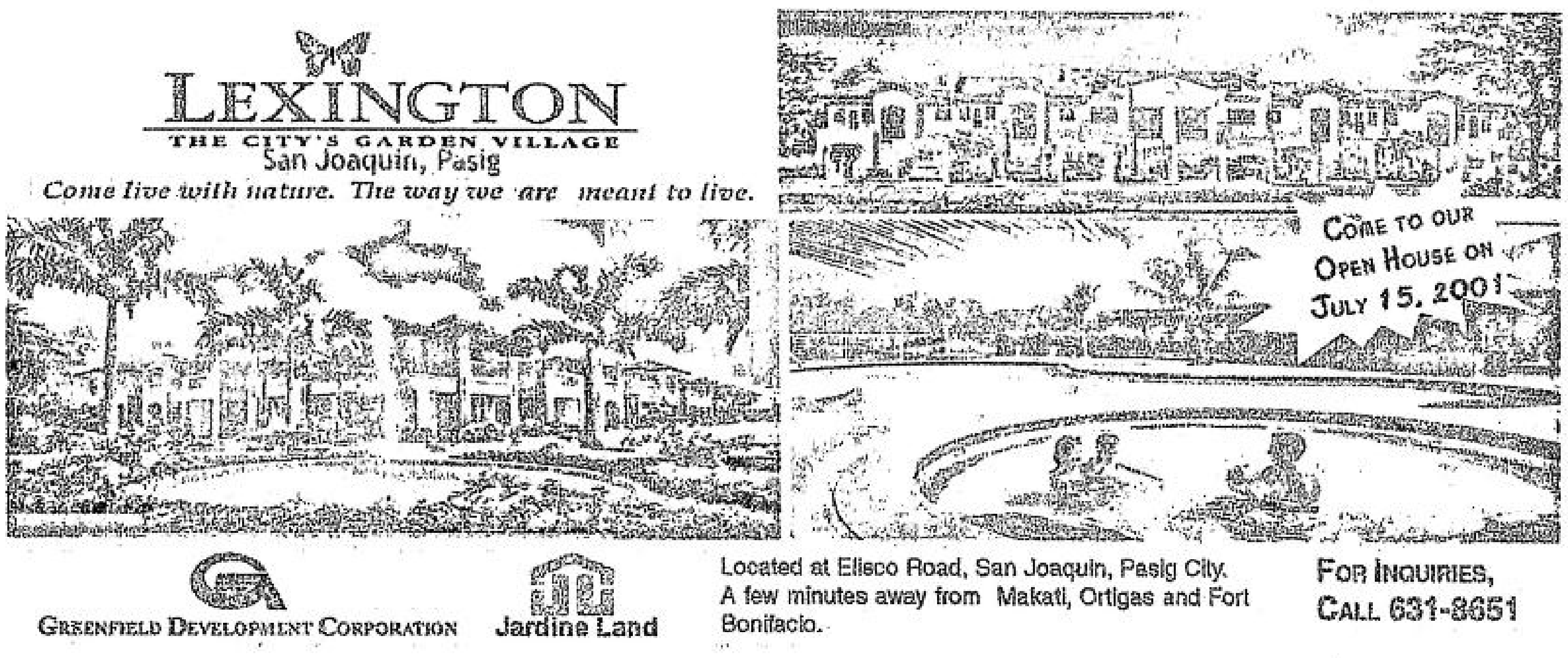

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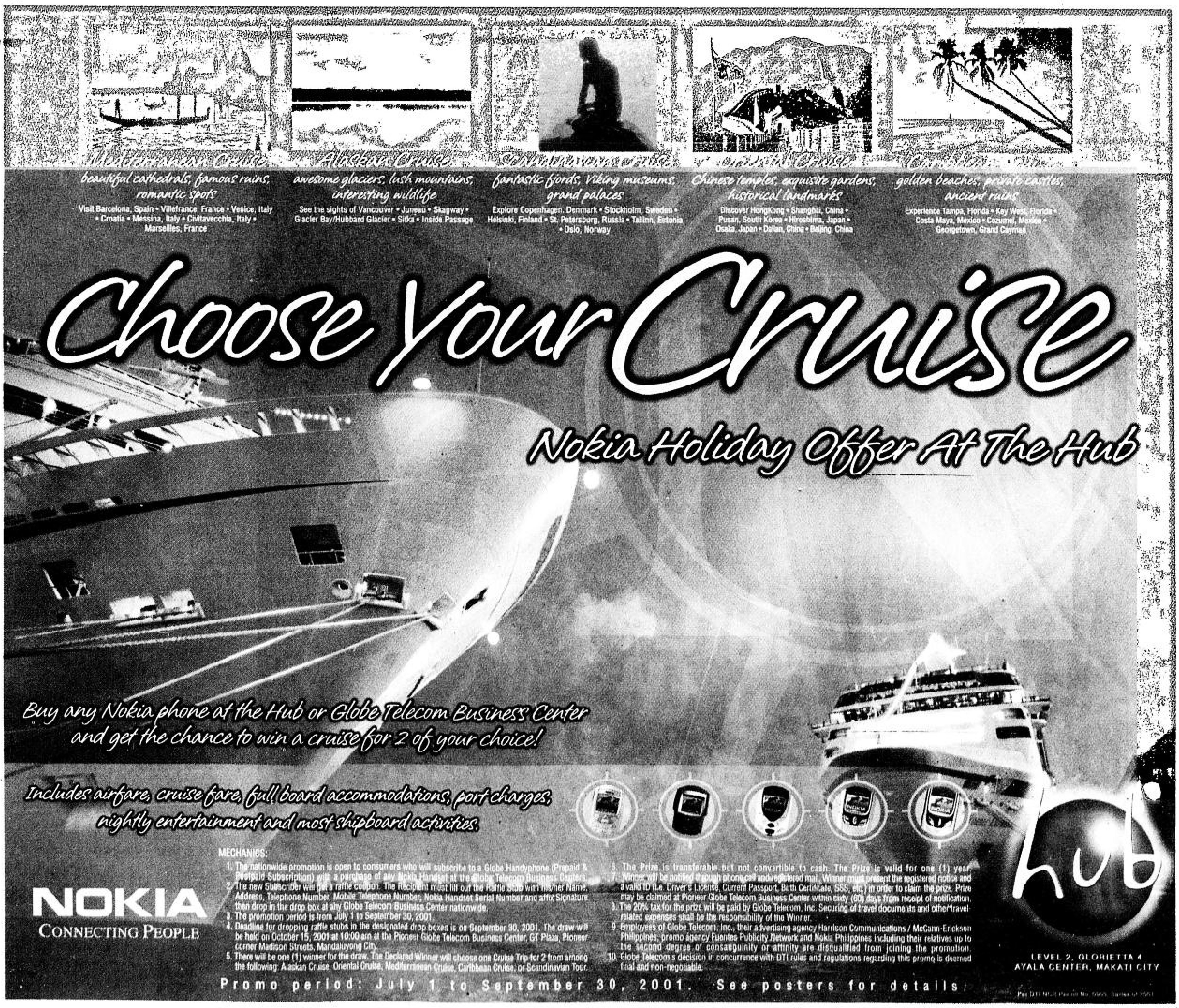

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Promo period: July 1 to September 30, 2001. See posters for details.

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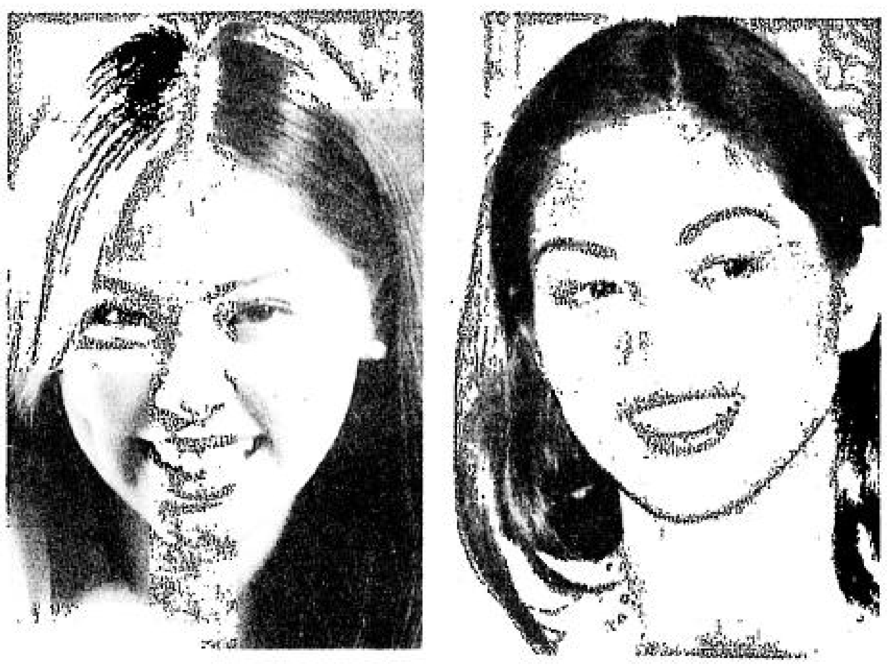
'The Buzz' vs 'S-Files'

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

THE COMPETITION between Channel 2's "The Buzz" and Channel 7's "S-Files" has heated up ever since Janice de Belen joined "S-Files" as host three Sundays ago.

Janice's interview with her former lover, Aga Muhlach, really made viewers sit up and watch, so the following Sunday, "The Buzz" made it a point to counter with a hot exclusive: the first TV interview of Angelu de Leon after the birth of her second love child.



DE LEON AND QUIAMBAO. Only the first salvos of what could be a weekly "duel" of hot exclusives.

Spicy feature

But "S-Files" didn't just throw in the towel and concede the ratings to the ABS-CBN show. It came up with its own spicy feature: Paolo Bediones interviewing Miriam Quiambao on her recent break-up with her long-time fiancé.

What made the feature even more eventful was the fact that Paolo has been cited in some reports as the "third party" who caused the break-up.

Well, right off the bat, Miriam set the record straight by saying that there was no third party involved in her split with her boyfriend. That left Paolo and other "suspects" off the hook.

Less forthcoming

But Miriam was less forthcoming about the actual cause of the split. She stopped at the declaration, "There were some issues to settle . . . career is a concern," leaving viewers in the dark about what those "issues" were.

Any chance of reconciliation? Miriam didn't sound too hopeful on that score. The long interview ended with Miriam begging for time to "rediscover myself." No dating yet, she needed more time to "heal."

Private problems

Fine, but why did Miriam go on TV to clarify things, but decided not to tell all about why the engagement had been terminated in the first place? She hinted that her fiancé hated it when their private problems were talked about in public, so we must surmise that she decided not to "tell all" in deference to his feelings.

Still, her relative non-disclosure left some key questions unanswered, so it doesn't look like the issue can be laid to rest, as she had hoped.

On the other hand, Angelu de Leon on "The Buzz" was much more forthcoming about the circumstances that led to her recently giving birth to her second baby without benefit of marriage. And yet, the effect of her "true confessions" interview wasn't as positive as she obviously intended it to be.

Decision

A possible factor was her decision to begin the interview in a confident, unapologetic and even breezy manner. The fact that this was her second time to "stumble" made some viewers wonder why she was being so "smug." If she knew all the answers, why did she keep making the same mistake?

Later, Angelu balanced the picture by bringing up a number of details that made viewers' hearts go to her: the father of her second baby swore he was single when in fact he was very much married; he threatened her when she decided to leave him; he confiscated her passport and she had to escape from his clutches in the States; he is now behind bars, etc.

Happy family life

Angelu's point: she had learned a lot from her first mistake, but she decided to try again to commit herself to another man because she wanted a happy family life for her little girl. Unfortunately, the fickle finger of fate shafted her again, so she had to make the best of another really bad situation.

So, it looks like Angelu isn't all that great at picking prospective life partners. Will her fans "forgive" her for the second time and support her latest comeback on the local entertainment scene, or will they feel that she has disappointed them twice too often?

Third chance

We trust that they *will* give her a third chance, because Angelu is not even 22 years old, and if she really gets her act together from here on in, she still has many years ahead of her to make a good life for herself and her two little "angels."

"The Buzz" versus "S-Files." Angelu de Leon versus Miriam Quiambao—that's only the first salvos of what could be a weekly "duel" of hot exclusives that would make it tough for viewers to decide which show they will view.

Well, it may be time for viewers to decide to get two TV sets, so they can view both shows and get their weekly dose of show biz controversy—in stereophonic and 3-D modes!

Rockin' 'n' rollin' down memory lane

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

TRUTH to tell, I didn't want to go. I wasn't feeling well. But I couldn't say no to family friend Bablu Barbero who, together with Cora Bañez, invited me on a night out of fun and relaxation at Auditorium, that West ave. watering hole that's fast becoming the favorite Friday night hangout of those who lived and loved in the '60s.

Giddy

The Rockin' Revival band was playing when we arrived. It didn't take long for me to feel right at home with the rock 'n' roll music I grew up with. All throughout the night, I felt giddy—not from the wine I was imbibing but from the flood of memories that kept rushing through my mind.

Teenage icons like Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, Cliff Richard, Chubby Checker, Ricky Nelson. Carl Perkins, and such idols as the Beatles, Beach Boys, Cascades, Byrds, Dave Clark 5, the Platters, and the other musical "giants" of my high school years came alive in my mind.

The Rockin' Revival played "Honeycomb." I used to dance the meanest boogie in town with that song. I would tingle all over because my crush always rushed to me faster than all the other guys each time he heard the first strains of this dancey tune.

Anthem

Next, they did the Beatles' "In My Life" and I almost cried. That was the anthem of my youth! I don't know why but, as the song was being sung, I remembered the times I played hookey from school. I used to hide a blouse and a pair of jeans in my school bag and, as soon as the car was out of sight, I'd wriggle myself into them and go watch a movie and eat out either with my classmates, or my boyfriend at the time.

My heart stopped beating for five seconds when I recognized the first riffs of "Dreamin' Again," I don't know why, but I associated that quaint and poignant song with the petty quarrels I had plenty of with my boyfriend, way back when.

Those were quarrels that sliced my heart open. Quarrels that drenched me with tears all through the night. Quarrels that I always wanted to patch up just as soon as I started them, were if not for my colossal pride. Oh, the bittersweet, innocent pain of juvenile love!

"Till There Was You" was the next song, and I smiled. That song was played during the wedding of my best friend whom I envied enormously because she eloped first before getting married. At that time, with my adventurous nature and rebellious streak, I really felt that was the smartest thing to do.

Audacity

Come to think of it, I'd have eloped myself, had I the boyfriend who could match my audacity and love for danger.

When "Wake Up, Little Susie" was played, I actually stood up and stomped my feet to the beat. That was the all-time hit of our jam sessions back then, largely because it was the barometer of a girl's popularity and/or desirability with the boys.

If that song was played and no one asked you to dance, you'd rather vanish into thin air. Everybody—without exception—had to dance whenever little Susie needed to wake up. To remain seated was the kiss of death! Of course, some of the unpopular girls pretended to go for some juice but a trail of loud whispers always followed them all the way to the punch bowl.

Elvis Presley is not in the Rockin' Revival's regular repertoire. But because I especially requested for his songs, they very generously obliged two weeks later.

I'm an Elvis groupie. I used to collect not just his albums but his posters, shirts, and anything that had his picture, signature or both. I even wrote to him once. He replied with a glass ring that had his face on it and a pocketbook about his rise to stardom from very humble beginnings. Both items were a source of pride for me, and envy for my friends.

Elvis fanatic

I'm such an Elvis fanatic that I knelt on the star bearing his name and signature on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. To this day, I regret the fact that Elvis died before he could come to Manila.

Back to the Rockin' Revival: There's something snug and comfy about the way they play rock 'n' roll. When you hear them, it takes your entire will power to stop yourself from swaying your hips!

Or it could be because songs from the '60s are really best played by those who had lived them—as Cash Manalang (vocals and bass guitar), Sonny Nicolas (lead guitar and musical direction), Tony Huelves (vocals and lead guitar), Butch Sabater (keyboards), Roy Reyes (bass guitar) and Percy Benitez (drums) most definitely have!

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Combs puts . . .

(From page F1)

trial that he was switching his name exclusively to P. Diddy was just a joke). It features numerous artists from his Bad Boy record label, and is as much of a showcase album for them as it is for Combs.

Fixture

The disc is coming out four months after he was acquitted of weapons and bribery charges stemming from a 1999 nightclub shooting. Combs hasn't released an album since 1999's "Forever" album, but he has remained a fixture in the headlines with the trial, his romance and breakup with actress-singer Jennifer Lopez, and the success of his clothing line, Sean John.

"This will be the true test to see if he has completely oversaturated himself in the public's eye or not," said Vibe magazine editor in chief Emil Wilbekin. "The one thing I think is brave of Puffy with this album is to put himself out there with his music so quickly after the whole trial incident . . . He's basically jumping back into the game headfirst."

"Forever" was a commercial disappointment for Combs. It sold just 1.4 million copies while his 1997 debut album, "No Way Out," sold five million, according to Soundscan.

Still, L.A. Reid, president of Arista Records, which is releasing Combs' album, has high hopes for it. "We have a great shot to come at the top of the charts with this," he said.

One of the album's more noteworthy aspects is that it contains no samples from other recordings—a departure for Combs, whose work has often been maligned for its reliance on hooks from other people's hits.

But Combs said the decision against sampling wasn't planned, and denies he's overused the technique in his songs.

"I've been making records for a long time, I had a bunch of No. 1 records, and a lot of them didn't have samples," he said.

Hype

Combs, who appeared on MTV's "Total Request Live" and "Live with Regis & Kelly" on Tuesday, said he wanted to tame down the hype for this album. explaining that he didn't want it to be "one of those overanticipated, long lead-in, setup albums that people overthink."

"I want to put out an album that has no deep meaning, it doesn't have no inner thoughts or anything like that, it's just 14 hot records that you can turn on in your Jeep, in your house, in your club, and listen to and enjoy."

Wilbekin said those kinds of records are Combs' strength. "I think Puffy is the king of that," Wilbekin said. "He does really great club anthem songs."

Partying was far from Combs' thoughts during his legal troubles and trial, which resulted in a 10-year jail sentence for his protege, Shyne. Combs said he found it difficult to concentrate on anything else, personally and professionally.

"It was a very concerning situation. I had a lot of concerns. That became my priority. I had to work not to be pulled down," he said. "So doing that, it's so stressful, like, it's not a pleasant place to be in and making music."

Investigations

A recent Talk magazine suggested his legal troubles were not over, and claimed he was the subject of three criminal investigations. But Combs denied that, and two of the agencies that Talk said were investigating Combs denied they were. Talk stood by the story.

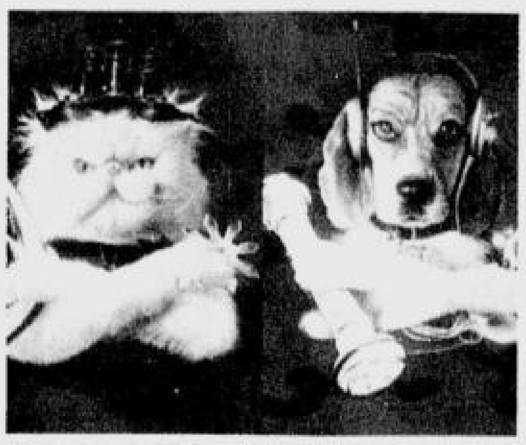
Combs lamented some of the tabloid stories about him, many of which focused on the Lopez breakup. He won't talk about that, but denied rumors he's dating two supermodels.

"I really don't have anything to discuss, because I'm not seeing nobody," he said, laughing.

Reid, who's known Combs for years, said the trial made Combs more mellow. "I see a focus in him and overall he's a nicer person," he said.

Combs agrees that the experience left him a changed man. "I was just in a personal situation that could do nothing but humble you," he said. "I'm just glad y'all are catching me at a good place right now, which is a positive place . . . I don't think it's all that serious for me now." *AP*

'Cats & Dogs' is movie fans' best friend at the tills



"CATS & DOGS." Household pets feuding over world domination.

WARNER Bros.' "Cats & Dogs," a family film about household pets feuding over world domination, clawed its way ahead into first place in the US box-office with a July 4 weekend debut of a howling $21.7 million and a beastly $35.7 million in its first five days.

Showing that the world just can't get enough of animals that can talk, "Cats & Dogs" posted a per-screen average of a wild $7,128 in 2,020 theaters. The film opened stronger over the long weekend than the last talking animal picture "Dr. Dolittle 2" which bowed just two weeks ago.

Promising future

Climbing 21 percent from Friday to Saturday, "Cats" has a promising future ahead. With no other films aimed directly at kids due for release until August, "Cats & Dogs" should be able to cross the $100 million mark with ease.

The film's director, Larry Guterman, explains the movie's appeal as "fundamentally being such a strong idea. And people seemed to enjoy its execution." In visiting theaters he found a mix of teenagers and older patrons among the parents and children, which could have given the movie that something extra to lift it to the top.

"Cats & Dogs" combines live-action and digital animation to create a world where talking canines and felines duke it out using fancy computers and gadgetry. The movie stars Jeff Goldblum and Elizabeth Perkins and features the voices of Alec Baldwin, Tobey Maguire, Susan Sarandon and Sean Hayes.

Inventive

"The underlying idea was so strong and inventive. The idea of what happens if right under our noses, there's a high-tech war going on between cats and dogs," Guterman adds. "It sounds funny to me still having just said it again."

In the film, unbeknownst to their human companions, dogs have been fighting for thousands of years to keep mankind from falling under the rule of cats.

When a rogue feline, Mr. Tinkles (voiced by Sean Hayes), initiates a plan to strategically disable the world's dog population and leave humans defenseless against his tyranny, a crack team of dog agents and a loyal puppy named Lou (voiced by Tobey Maguire) are all that stand between mankind and slavery.

"Cats & Dogs" promise to bring pure delight to audiences with a totally new take on the spy thriller.

Appeal

Who could resist the appeal of a young Beagle puppy who really wants to be a top secret agent? What could match the thrill of watching a troop of cunning ninja cats carry out a swift and stunning raid?

"I think anyone who ever had a pet will find this totally believable," says Guterman. "And I certainly couldn't resist the chance to get involved in showing the audience so much that has never been seen before."

Jaya unleashes latest album

MONTAGE

JAYA. Album launch at Hard Rock Cafe.

JAYA recently launched her latest album, "Unleashed," at Hard Rock Cafe. The album contains compositions and arrangements by Homer Flores, Jay Durias, Gerard Salonga, Vehnee Saturno, Freddie Saturno, Marc Lopez, Trina Belamide and many others.

The carrier single is the mellow rock ballad "Love Hurts" originally sung by The Scorpions.

French group in promo tour

France's current bet for international stardom, 2Be3, will be in the country from July 18 to 23 for a promo tour.

The group's two albums have already sold more than six million copies in France. The all-male band composed of Adel Kachermi, Filip Nikolitch and Frank Delhaye will be at SM Southmall on July 20, SM North Edsa on July 21 and SM Bacoor on July 22 to perform hits from their latest album, "Excuse My French."

They will also be seen on "PBA Games," July 20; "Eat Bulaga," "Startalk," and "Master Showman" on July 21; and "SOP," on July 22.

South Border at Padi's

South Border will celebrate its anniversary with a special concert at Padi's Mindave on July 15. The group will soon launch its fourth album under the Sony label, Among the 10 original compositions in the album is "Habang Atin Ang Gabi," the theme song of Star Cinema's "La Vida Rosa," starring Rosanna Roces and Diether Ocampo and directed by Chito Roño.

The three previous South Border albums reached platinum and gold status. Among the group's hits are "Kahit Kailan" and "Sa 'Yo." Call 453-0080.

Vina Morales in Davao

Jag jeans flies to The Venue Club in Davao City for a concert by Vina Morales in its out of town "Party for the People" series. Davaoeños will be treated to an evening of spectacular dance numbers, vocal fireworks and other entertainment numbers.

Hard Rock in July

This month, Hard Rock Cafe Makati offers an eclectic blend of musical shows. On July 16, Rannie Raymundo appears in the "Music for Life" series with additional performances on July 23 and 30.

Other artists in the series are Ugoy-Ugoy band (July 17, 24 and 31) and Asciano Mix (July 18). Then on July 19 and 26, catch Bituin Escalante and Acoustic Jive in "Joey's Acoustic Nights."

Verni Varga will have a solo performance on July 30 in the City Lite Jazz and Grooves series. Call 893-4661.

DiCaprio on Star Movies

Hollywood heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio stars in the action-suspense film "The Beach" on Star Movies on July 15 at 9 p.m. The movie also stars French actress Virginie Ledoyen, Robert Carlyle, Tilda Swinton and Guillaume Canet.

The movie is about a young American backpacker who arrives in Thailand with adventure in his mind and gets more than he bargained for.

Chow Yun Fat starrer

Star Mandarin presents Chow Yun Fat, Cherie Chung, DoDo Cheng, Jacky Cheung, Fennie Yuen, BoBo Fung and Raymon Wong in "Eighth Happiness" on July 17 at 5 p.m.

The movie is about three brothers with different characters, who meet and woo their lovely ladies with astonishing results.

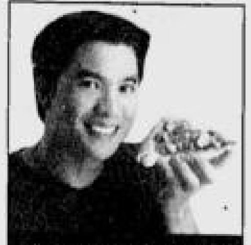
Jackie Chan hit

The 70s blockbuster "Drunken Master" was one of Jackie Chan's most popular movies. Catch the sequel "Drunken Master 2," with Jackie reprising his role, on July 15 at 4:45 p.m. on Star Mandarin. Also starring are Anita Mui and Ti Lung.

Set in the late Ching dynasty, the film is about a father and son who go to the North to buy medicine but become involved in the fight between local martial arts schools and a British officer.

'Jurassic Park 3' premiere

United International Pictures presents the Philippine gala premiere of "Jurassic Park 3" at 7 p.m. on July 16 at SM Megamall Cinema 1. The film continues the adventure that began with "Jurassic Park" and "The Lost World: Jurassic Park 2," and stars Sam Neill, William N. Macy and Tea Leoni. Members of the press can avail of tickets from Romie Berona of UIP by calling 722-5390. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)



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How to achieve all we really need

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WHAT is the use of all our sacrifices, hardships and efforts to survive? What is the use of our pious endeavors, prayers, rituals and works of charity? What is the very goal of our activities?

Answer

The ancient book "Shrimad Bhagavatam" gives the answer to this crucial question: "Without devotional service to the Supreme Lord what is the meaning of severe austerities, the process of hearing, the power of speech, the power of mental speculation, elevated intelligence, strength, and the power of the senses?

"Transcendental practices that do not ultimately help one realize the Supreme Personality of Godhead are useless, be they mystic yoga practices, the analytical study of matter, severe austerity, the acceptance of renounced life, or the study of the scriptures.

"All these may be very important aspects of spiritual advancement, but unless one understands the Supreme Personality of Godhead, all these processes are useless." (4.27.11-12)

There is one true goal in life—to understand and act upon our spiritual identity as part and parcel of the Supreme Father and develop a loving relationship with Him.

Material goals

Other people will try to convince us that we have to undertake many endeavors and achieve all sorts of material goals to be happy in life. However, the great sages and saintly persons point out that we have to only come to know and love the Supreme Lord to be happy and secure.

If we neglect our spiritual goal and simply compete with each other to survive, then we are no better than the rats and cockroaches. Even if we go through education and training but only learn how to compete better, then our education is useless.

My teacher once commented that it is actually very easy to survive in this world, but it takes great effort to die. Jesus himself questions our great anxiety about surviving: If animals are provided for and see no need to steal and hoard, why is man so worried about his survival? By nature's arrangement, we are amply provided with the basic necessities.

Isn't it more important to arrive at a deeper meaning to our existence beyond the struggle to survive'?

Opportunities

We are given opportunities to achieve an existence that is free from anxiety and fear, to gain wisdom and achieve all-satisfying love for the Supreme. Yet we busy ourselves with the petty and trivial. We take seminars and try to learn time management but we use our skills to simply compete and have more time to efficiently engage in useless, meaningless endeavors. Even our prayers, religious practices and acts of charity are directed at improving our materialistic existence.

The great sages advice that we seek out the things that are not of this world—to go beyond mere breathing and moving. We are advised to seek that which gives actual life to the soul.

Let us not waste our time, our life, our existence. Let us seek God and rest in His loving shelter. In this way, we achieve all that we really need.

10 YEARS AGO

Young male dramatic leads relaunched as action heroes

BY NOELANI TORRE

(Conclusion)

"UNA Kang Naging Akin" co-starred Dawn Zulueta, Michael de Mesa, Charito Solis, Eddie Gutierrez, Armida Siguion-Reyna and Patrick Guzman.

Sharon Cuneta was more daring and mature in this drama in terms of her role and the passionate love scenes she did opposite Gabby Concepcion. She played his mistress (Gabby's character was married to Dawn's) and she herself was "shocked" by the intensity of her love scenes with Gabby, who was her estranged husband at the time.

Versatile actress

Speaking of mature roles, 17-year-old Ruffa Gutierrez announced that she was now ready to do more of the same. She refused to be labelled ST and wanted people to recognize her as a versatile actress. In her upcoming movie "Makiusap Ka sa Diyos," she played a novice who gets raped and is forced to marry her rapist.

"*Gusto ko may saysay na ang lahat ng mga gagawin kong* movies. *Ayoko na ng pa*-tweetums *na* roles. *Para ano pa at dinirek ako ni Lino Brocka sa drama kung babalik pa ako sa bagets* roles?" the actress said. The film also starred Christopher de Leon, Gabby Concepcion, and Maricel Laxa.

One actress who didn't mind being labelled ST was Christina Gonzales. She was called the reigning ST queen with the box-office success of her Aga Muhlach co-starrer "Ang Katawan ni Sofia." The movie grossed more than P3 M on opening day, topping the feats of other ST actresses Gretchen Barreto, Rita Avila and Rina Reyes. It just goes to show that 10 years ago, the most lucrative films were the "kiss kiss bang bang" variety, as they still are to this day.

But there's a difference between the bold actresses of the late '80s and today's movie sex kittens. Sexy stars a decade ago managed to leave something to the imagination, while more liberal standards at present keep pushing back the boundaries of what can be shown onscreen.

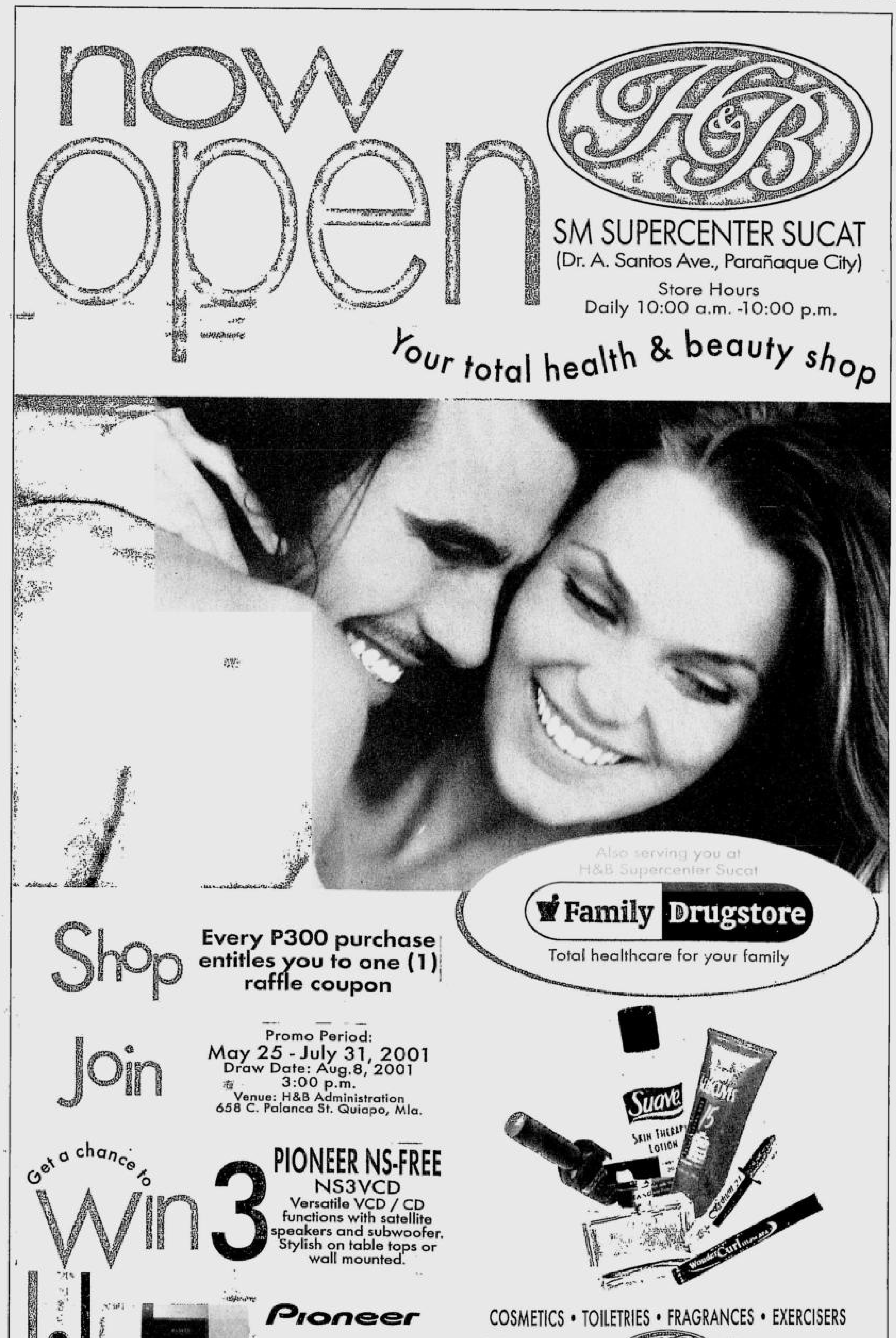
True, there's been a change in the composition of the MTRCB due to public clamor over what's been perceived as excessive permissiveness in terms of sex and nudity onscreen. But, all told, the films of the late '80s were still less graphic in terms of erotic imagery than today's screen scorchers.

Separate ways

As for Sharon and Gabby, they've gone their separate ways for years now, but once in a while, we still hear of plans for Gabby to make a comeback to local movies, after his long stay in the United States.

For some reason or other, however, those plans remain unrealized. Some say that it's because Gabby has put on weight abroad (all that rich food!) and needs to lose the added poundage to look good onscreen. Another reason is the hefty talent fee that he's reported to have charged.

For her part, Sharon definitely isn't holding her breath waiting for Gabby's return. She has her own weight reduction program to concentrate on so *she* can look terrific in her own comeback to the local silver screen, in "for-the-fans" movie that is supposed to co-star her for the third time with Robin Padilla.



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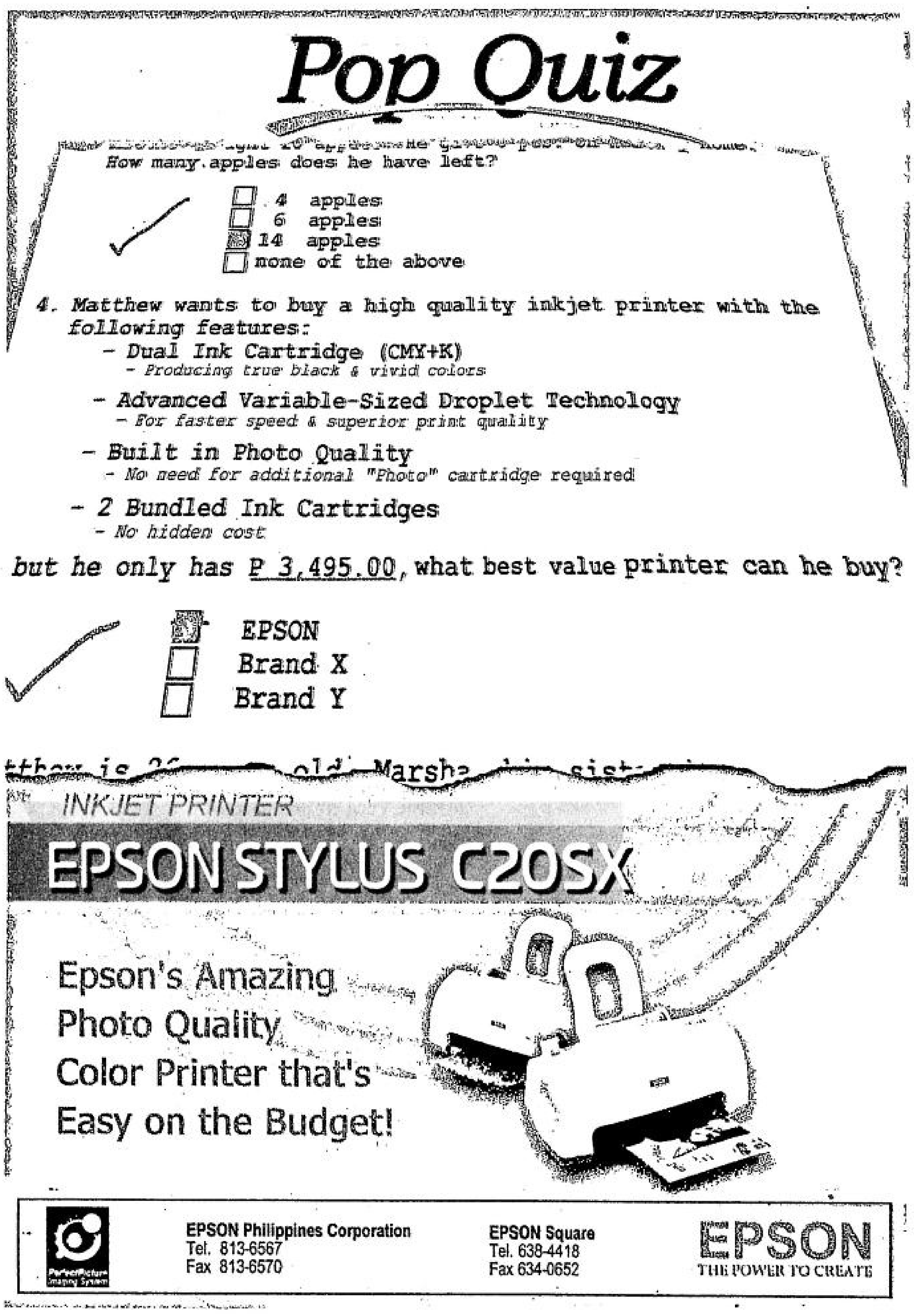
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☐ 6 apples
☒ 14 apples
☐ none of the above

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- 2 Bundled Ink Cartridges
  - No hidden cost

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

'Chang and Eng' lead star joins ABS-CBN

By Edmund L. Sicam

ROSALES. Gave up job with a bank in Singapore to work here.

MULTI-TALENTED RJ Rosales is the newest talent to sign on with ABS-CBN. Standing 5' 7 ½", with good looks and a stunning smile, RJ is set to take on the local scene. RJ, which stands for Roseo (his father's name) Jose, was born in Cavite. When he was 14, his family migrated to Australia, where he continued his studies, taking up mathematics.

There, he also took acting lessons at the Sydney Actor's College and joined dance workshops at the City Fringe Dance Studios. He auditioned for "Miss Saigon" and became part of the ensemble. In 1998, he auditioned for the lead role of "Chang" in the musical, "Chang and Eng," a musical based on the life of the original Siamese twins, born in the 18th century.

"*Ginawa silang parang* freak show in the States. They married two American sisters and had 21 kids. This is a true story," RJ informs us. The musical ran for more than 60 performances in Singapore and was staged for four days in Bangkok.

Joining the musical was a major step for RJ, "It was a hard decision for me because I had to leave my bank job in Australia and move up to Singapore, not knowing anybody there. So it was a big risk." But it was also his first lead role in a major musical, so it was an offer he couldn't refuse. "It was a fun musical," RJ shares.

For the role of his Siamese twin, they tried to look for someone who looked similar to RJ. "It was a bit scary *kasi baka ma*-discover *na meron pala akong* twin brother!" RJ jokes. They finally found another Filipino, Roy Ruloda, an actor from Repertory Philippines. RJ discovered that he and Roy actually have common relatives, but no, they are not long-lost twin brothers.

"It was physically taxing! *Magkakabit kami sa* chest," RJ sighs. The twins were two people with whole bodies, connected at the chest. They even had to learn to dance this way, which gave their choreographer a headache.

RJ comes from a family grounded in engineering and mathematics. His father is an engineer, while his younger brother will soon graduate with an engineering degree. His mother is a banker (his mother's maiden name is "Dagdag" so we commented that math must really be in their blood) and his sister is an accountant. His youngest brother is pursuing a law degree.

But RJ reveals that everyone in his family is interested in music.

"But I'm the only one who took the plunge!" Actually, RJ was also pursuing the Mathematics track.

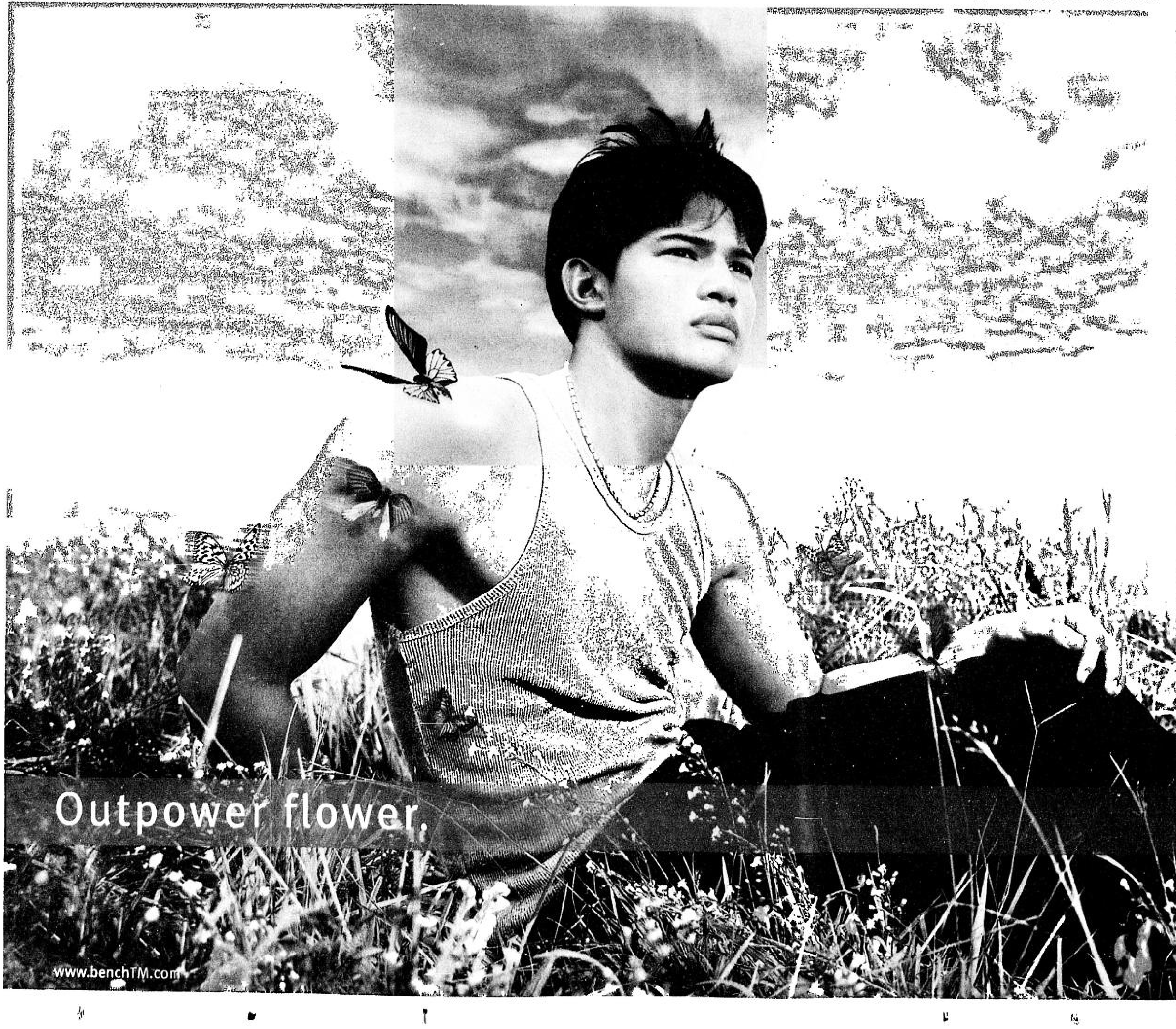
"I worked for a computer company for about a year or so. But my heart was telling me something else . . . I took mathematics because it was an interest, but my love has always been singing, since I was very young. It's always been my love and my passion. So whenever I get the opportunity to sing, I grab it," he says.

While in Singapore, a fellow cast member in "Chang and Eng" mentioned that ABS-CBN was looking for a male singer to do a show for them. RJ got the number of Mickey Muñoz and expressed his interest. Something must have impressed them because without an audition, RJ was told to come for rehearsals.

RJ relates his first day on the musical show, "Music of Dreams." "When I came in for the rehearsal, *sabi niya* (Muñoz), '*May* surprise *ako sa iyo*. You're co-hosting with Pops.' I said, 'Oh my God!'" RJ was so thrilled to find out he would be co-hosting with the concert queen. "I guess I did a good job!" RJ remarks, because he was then invited to host another show, Pops' ABS-CBN summer special.

After doing two shows with ABS-CBN, RJ was offered the chance to join the ABS CBN Talent Center. "So now, I've made the decision. *Hinakot ko na lahat ng damit ko dito sa* Manila. Yeah, I've set my heart into relocating here." RJ says.

'CHANG AND ENG'/ P. F6



Why Jo Ramos rocks

BY BEHN CERVANTES

RAMOS. "Music should make people move."

"LOW alto, dance artist, percussionist, low-key personality" is how Jo Ramos likes to describe herself. Others more quickly identify her as the former First Daughter who also just happens to be a performer. Well, correction please, Jo Ramos would like to be recognized first as a striving artist who just happened to have become a Presidential daughter. It was a twist of fate, not of her own making. It certainly didn't seem to work to her advantage, either.

Aspiration

When did this artistic aspiration start for Jo Ramos? "Thank God for my childhood `scars' from being an outcast artist, a rejected individual in high school and college, as the self-isolation developed my inner capabilities as an artist whose interests became diverse. Dance and music eventually became self-taught with guidance from both local and international professionals," says Jo.

Her dad is, of course, ex-President Fidel Ramos, a professional military man, and her mother is piano-playing Ming Ramos, an educator. Jo, the second of a brood of five girls, listened to the radio for hours since childhood. It was then that she started a collection of records of her favorite artists. Before long, she became interested in dance and did choreography for neighborhood productions. In school, she became a varsity cheerleader as well as a competitive water-skier.

Yes, she confesses, she is a Jack-of-all-trades but declares she is a dedicated hands-on worker, although she is still a master of none. At least, not yet at this point, but Jo sure is working at it, studying the trends and focusing her efforts in the proper context of changing tastes and times.

Unconventional concepts

For 17 years now, Jo has been a performer, singer, dancer, choreographer, percussionist, creative director, costume designer, and more. She has done anything and everything that improves her performance, enhances her knowledge of her craft and enriches her unconventional concepts of music.

She acknowledges that having taken up music theory under Mrs. Arambulo, including the roots of jazz, classical music and its development as foundation of ballads and other forms of contemporary music, helped her to understand and situate her goals in relation to the kind of music she wanted to develop in the Philippines.

And what exactly is that? "I like music that is fiery and funky. I think that music should make people move."

What are the musical influences in her life? "I love Stevie Wonder and groups like the Earth, Wind and Fire. I thought that the songs of certain '70s groups like the Bee Gees were not danceable. When I watch an artist, there has got to be dance. The music should be transformed into movement and dance."

Before going solo, Jo was a dancer and back-up singer for the Power Play Band. She considers that period when she worked with the likes of Gary Valenciano and musical arranger Mon Faustino as a wonderful experience. She has the highest regard for the two musicians.

While working with the group, she also did creative planning. That included tasks that saw her doing repertoire research, choreography, casting, line-up of songs, and more.

Tall order

It was fun and enriching while it lasted but she needed to express

WHY/ P. F6

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 14 - JULY 20

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[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 The Working President 8:00 To Be Announced 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vanpires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Gloria Estefan: Carribean Soul* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's BEST 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 To Be Announced 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class	7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 2001 PBA Commissioner's Cup Provincial Game	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Al Adamson* 9:00 E! Special 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Jon Voight* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Ben Affleck* 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
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'Chang and Eng' . . .

(From page F4)

He will be living in Baclaran with his two aunts, whom he describes as being very supportive of him. His sister will also be here to assist him. The rest of his family will be staying in Australia. In Singapore, he says, he relied on the guy selling noodles across the street for his meals. In Manila, he says, "*Masarap naman po iyung mga nasa* food court . . ."

Although he has spent 10 years abroad, RJ speaks good Filipino, with hardly a trace of a foreign accent. "*Wala po ba*?" RJ asks the press. "*Nag*-practice *kasi ako* the past few days . . ," he kids again. Spending his first 14 years in the Philippines will be a great help in breaking into the industry, because he does not have to learn the language anymore, nor does he have to unlearn any accents that he has picked up along the way.

He does not have a girlfriend at this time, although he has had relationships with an American and a Singaporean. "International *po*!" RJ teases. Reporters tease him back that he is sure to add a Filipina to his "international" list.

RJ is giving himself five years to make his own mark in the industry. He wants to make an album and do some movies. "*Gusto kong maging* established in five years' time . . . then retire in six years . . .hahahaha . . ," he jokes again.

Reporters then tell RJ that, at this time, many people are moving out of the Philippines because of the peace and order situation in the country. In his case, he wants to move back. Why? "*Iyon (din) ang sabi ng* daddy ko!" RJ retorts, then says seriously, "No I think I will learn a lot here in the industry, especially with established actors, and I can really develop my craft here, I think *mas* established *tayo* compared to Singapore."

RJ says he is more of a baritone and lists Martin Nievera as his favorite Filipino performer. He says that while he was in Australia, people would give him CDs of Martin. His favorites of Martin include "Say That You Love Me" and "Be My Lady."

Although his first love is singing, he discovered his other talents when he joined "Miss Saigon." "Originally *po*, singing *lang talaga. Pero* when I got into "Miss Saigon," you know it comes with the musical—to be able to act and sing at the same time. Then when I got to Singapore, I got the opportunity also to work on TV in a drama series and hosting, so *na*-discover *ko na*, hey....I can do this!"

He is set to play a role in Richard Gomez' courtroom drama, "Your Honor," and will be introduced on "ASAP" tomorrow, where he may be hosting and performing regularly.

Home drops Viva

If you're a Home Cable subscriber, you've probably noticed that you're getting three new channels—Cinema One, ABS-CBN News Network and the Lifestyle Network. That's because Sky Cable, where these three channels are aired, has merged with Home Cable.

Some subscribers are complaining, however, that Viva Cinema has been dropped in favor of Cinema One, which carries mostly Star Cinema flicks. They are saying that there's room for two Tagalog movie channels, the same way there's room for more than one English movie channel. The only cable system offering Viva Cinema now is Destiny Cable.

Since Sky and Home account for a large segment of the market, Viva is losing a lot of viewers. We understand that negotiations are ongoing with the Sky-Home management to bring Viva back on the air. Obviously, it will be to the advantage of Home subscribers if they get both Cinema One and Viva.

Why Jo Ramos rocks

(From page F5)

RAMOS. Had to reestablish her own identity.

herself even more. She had to sing her own music, do it her way and make the world dance, or at the very least, move to it. It was a tall order, but worthy of an artistic soul.

Frustrated

When she went solo, she was gravely frustrated because it was surprisingly difficult for her to network in the industry. She found out she could not penetrate to the *masa*. Nevertheless, "I had to prove to myself that I had what it takes. I went on a provincial tour before I did concerts in the States three times during the Centennial Celebration.

Family rule

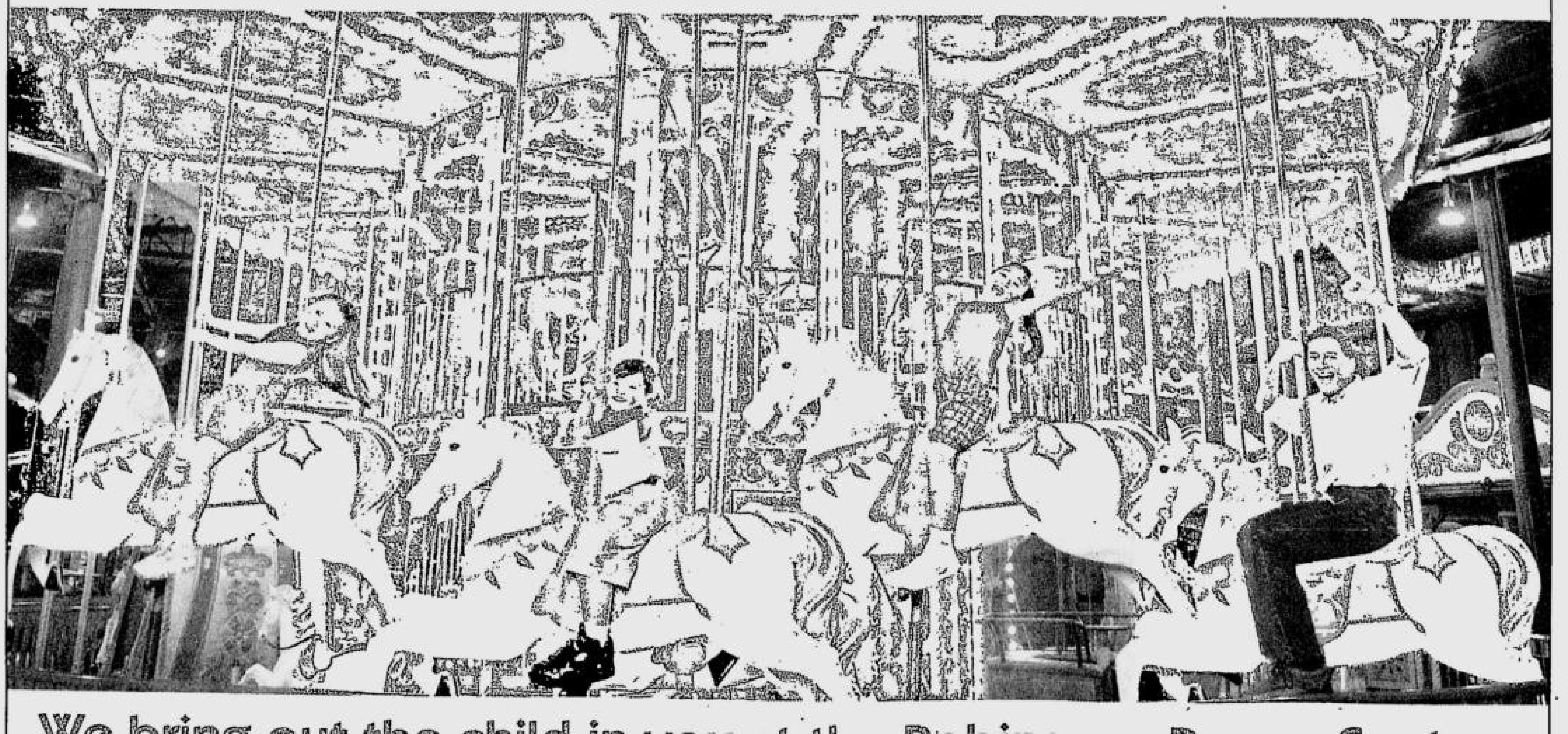
"It was difficult to be a First Daughter because it was a family rule not to be on top of an organization," Jo declares. What was ironic was that she had been in the music industry for well over 13 years.

Nevertheless, during the term of her dad, she had to reestablish her own identity. With Fidel Ramos as president of the country, she became known as the daughter of the *Pangulo*. When she married Lloyd Samartino, she became known as the wife of the movie actor.

Recognition

Despite the public perception that her status gave her an advantage, she felt she had to start from zero. Jo Ramos, the performer *cum* dancer plus creative designer, wanted recognition. She worked hard at it and prepared herself in all areas of her profession so that she could become a respected artist.

Despite her position, "I could *not* afford a manager. I could not have my own production. I did *not* have the money for shows." Given our experience with First Families in the past, her statement gives us pause. ***(To be concluded)***



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Shaggy makes a hotshot comeback

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

ASK any music industry executive and he'll tell you this: It is wiser to invest one's money on a new artist than risk it on an established talent whose star has dimmed and who aspires to stage a comeback.

Stigma

The latter, they say, is more difficult to build up because has-been artists have the stigma of, well, being has-beens. They usually have bigger egos, too, having tasted fame sometime in their career, and they find it hard to accept the fact that their star has faded.

But that's definitely not the case with Shaggy, the former EMI-Virgin Music prize catch responsible for early '90s hits such as "Mr. Boombastic," 'Oh Carolina" and "In The Summertime." The songs this Jamaican artist did for his last label were considered only mild hits, so when his contract expired, the exit door sprung wide open for Shaggy to pass through.

"My transition from Virgin to my current label was not an easy one. I was dropped from that label and that doesn't sit well with any ego. But on hindsight, I think it was also instrumental in my development. It made me a lot more determined, eager to prove that I was worthy ," he says.

Fortunately, MCA Universal, another giant recording company, had been keeping track of the rap-reggae star's career, and took him in with open arms.

Family

"I just wanted a label that would believe in me for the long run. I found that in this label, and that's why we're family now," Shaggy says.

This boost of confidence motivated Shaggy to write better songs and top the ones he'd done in the past. True enough, months after releasing his MCA debut disc, the artist claimed two Number Ones right away, with another on its way.

"As far as the success of the songs 'Angel' and 'It Wasn't Me' is concerned, it surpassed my expectations. I was just expecting to top the 'Boombastic' album, but six-million records is quite an accomplishment," Shaggy says proudly.

Shaggy says that his new album is very eclectic. The songs in it touch on a lot of subjects while incorporating elements of other genres.

"I think if the album wasn't entitled, 'Hot Shot,' a good name for it would be, 'Mood Swings.' It certainly puts you in different moods—from 'Hot Shot' all the way down to 'Chica Bonita.'"

Different styles

True enough, when we listened to the album, we heard different styles incorporated with reggae. If you're in the mood for love, there are songs that put you in a romantic spell. If you just want a good laugh, there's "It Wasn't Me." And if you want to party, there's the adrenaline-pumping "Luv Me Luv Me."

Doesn't Shaggy ever get tired of doing reggae? "Reggae music speaks in a universal language yet it's got quite a lot of culture to it. It's not just music, it's also a movement, a way of life, a mother to a lot of other music, especially hip-hop. It's a feel-good type of music and that's why it crosses all barriers," he explains.

Certainly, for Shaggy, success is sweeter the second time around!

SHAGGY. Boost of confidence.

Why some people don't like boy bands

BY LEIA TORRE

(Conclusion)

FOUR more respondents detail their reasons why they aren't fans of bands featuring cute, young performers:

"Members of boy bands usually try to portray the stereotypical boy next door: friskily handsome, sexy, popular, and—unfortunately for their songs—young-voiced. They spend most of their time trying to look cute and they come across as shallow and immature.

"Their songs are repetitive, 'girly' in the sense that they are intended to catch the attention of young girls, to the extent of making them scream.

"Plus, they dress in a supposedly macho, sexy way designed to show off whatever muscles they have. Their music videos are always shot in a 'romantic' setting that is usually overdone and ends up being corny."—*April Estreller, 22*

Different colors

"I really cannot differentiate one boy band from another. Their songs resemble each other and seem to be cut from the same musical 'cloth,' so to speak. The cloths are just dyed in different colors. These songs are also geared toward the female population, in both their lyrics and music.

"I think the members of these bands also love to see their faces everywhere, that is why all their music videos feature the same faces over and over again—their own! Their music makes my hair stand on end, and sometimes I just go to sleep in order to escape their pervasive sound.

> Some of their songs are derived from one basic formula that is revised over and over again to create songs that sound like each other after a while

"But the worst thing that has happened as a result of the boy band craze is that they hog the limelight, claiming all the glory and leaving none for other bands that are more deserving of our admiration."—*Wyn Baluyot, 20*

Name

"The only thing that makes one boy band different from another is its name. Basically, being a member of a boy band entails being able to look cute in front of the camera and being willing to wear ridiculous clothes intended to make an impression of sexiness.

"I find myself becoming irritated everytime I hear one of their songs because I simply cannot see the purpose behind the composition. They all sing generic, run-of-the-mill songs about romantic love designed to make the loveless feel even worse.

"Also, not all of the members know how to sing. And they are fond of 'reviving' songs that are still popular. In essence, their revivals still rely on the popularity of the originals for record sales."—*Rhea Macalincag, 17*

Basic formula

"Songs of boy bands are just derived from one basic formula that is revised over and over again in order to create songs that sound like each other after a while. I also do not like the fact that they do not cater to males as a part of their audience. They rely on gimmicks and staying "in-fashion" in order to attract more admirers.

"I find that the majority of the individuals involved in the boy band business tend to be arrogant. I admit, some of that is necessary in order for them to be able to perform and convince some people that they have talent, but they go overboard."—*Edward delos Santos, 23*

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'Final Fantasy' tests boundaries of computer animation

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—It seems fitting that for the first completely computer-generated science fiction action movie ever made, the most intensive work done by animators was on the lead female character's hair.

Creepy aliens

The hours logged to render futuristic worlds and creepy aliens for "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" do not compare to the time—one-fifth of the total production—spent fussing over Dr. Aki Ross' brunette hair.

Never mind that "Final Fantasy" video games on which the movie is based have millions of fans who will likely turn out for the movie anyway. No Hollywood film is worth the price of admission unless the lead actress's hair is perfect.

"She's kind of an expensive star," joked James Rogers, compositing director for the film's producer, Square Pictures.

Teasing aside, the work on Ross' coiffure is fitting because more than the other computer-generated (CG) movies before it, from 1995's "Toy Story" to this year's "Shrek," "Final Fantasy" comes close to creating "photo-real" humans—but, its makers want fans to know, not too close.

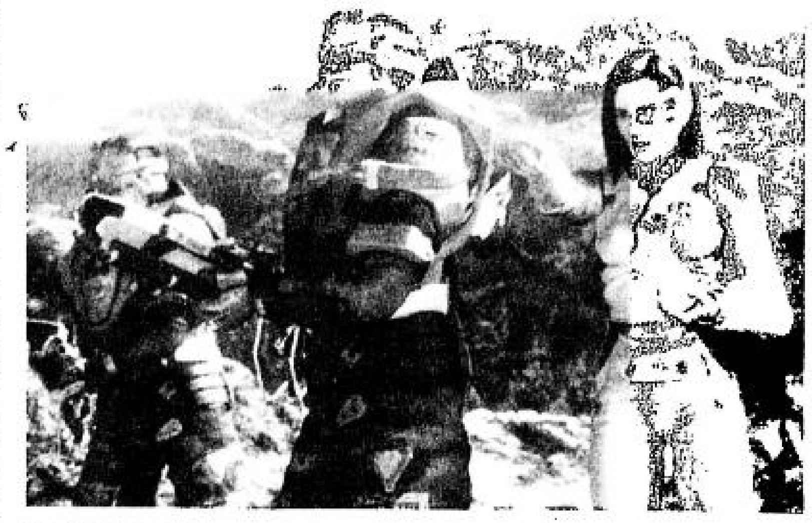
Own look

"Technologically, we strived to achieve that end and we are capable of it. But aesthetically we felt it would be more interesting if we stepped away from photo-realism and created our own look," Hironobu Sakaguchi, who created "Final Fantasy" and directed the movie, told Reuters through an interpreter.

In the early days of CG animation—five or six years ago—creating digital "actors" who looked and behaved exactly like humans was the holy grail of computer animation, but that idea is changing as filmmakers learn that creating fantasy worlds requires fantasy characters, not real ones. It is a philosophy Jeffrey Katzenberg and DreamWorks/PDI followed for fairy tale "Shrek" and a vision shared by Sakaguchi.

Like the eight role-playing video games before it, the "Final Fantasy" movie is set in a futuristic world and the plot and characters are unique to this particular story: In 2065, millions of aliens have laid siege to Earth, infecting humans with a sort of virus that kills most. Those who remain alive have retreated to walled cities.

Dr. Aki Ross (voiced by Ming Na) and her mentor Dr. Sid (Donald Sutherland) are working on a "wave theory" that all life forms are defined by "spiritual waves." The aliens have been feeding off of these human spirits and Ross and Sid believe they can create a wave that will drive them away.



"FINAL FANTASY." Creating fantasy worlds requires fantasy characters, not real ones.

Ecology

Ross and Sid are opposed by the arrogant General Hein (James Woods), who believes he can drive the aliens from Earth using a space-traveling "Zeus Cannon" to bombard the planet with a "bioetheric energy force." But what is unknown is how the "Zeus Cannon" will affect Earth's ecology.

Ross and Sid work feverishly to create their spiritual wave before General Hein can mount his big gun in space, but the scientists' mission is complicated by the fact that Ross' body has been infected by the alien virus and she is dying slowly.

Aiding in the alien battle is an elite team of soldiers known as "The Deep Eyes," led by the dashing Capt. Gray Edwards (Alec Baldwin). The Deeps Eyes and Edwards—whose hair is a bit more mussed than Ross'—supply the action for the "Final Fantasy" film by zipping around Earth in supercharged flying ships and zapping aliens with laser guns.

When Sakaguchi first imagined "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within," Edwards was central character, but as the story developed around "spirit waves" and their links to human emotions such as sadness or anger, Sakaguchi said he felt like the hero should have more feminine qualities.

He also said creating a live-action movie from a video game, like this summer's "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," did not fit with his goal of matching the interactivity of console games to the superior visual animation of movies.

Genius

The "Final Fantasy" games with their various characters and stories have sold 33 million units worldwide. In Japan, where Sakaguchi is revered as a genius in his field, the most recent game sold two million copies before it was even released.

Sakaguchi envisions a future in which the quality of digital animation in video games rises to the level of movies and movies can be more interactive. Toward that end, he said the DVD for "Final Fantasy" will include features in which players can manipulate some scenes taken from the film.

In this way, Sakaguchi is venturing down a road traveled by many moviemakers in recent years as video games have gained popularity and as Hollywood has targeted younger moviegoers.

But for all the $100 million hits like "Tomb Raider," there are many flops.

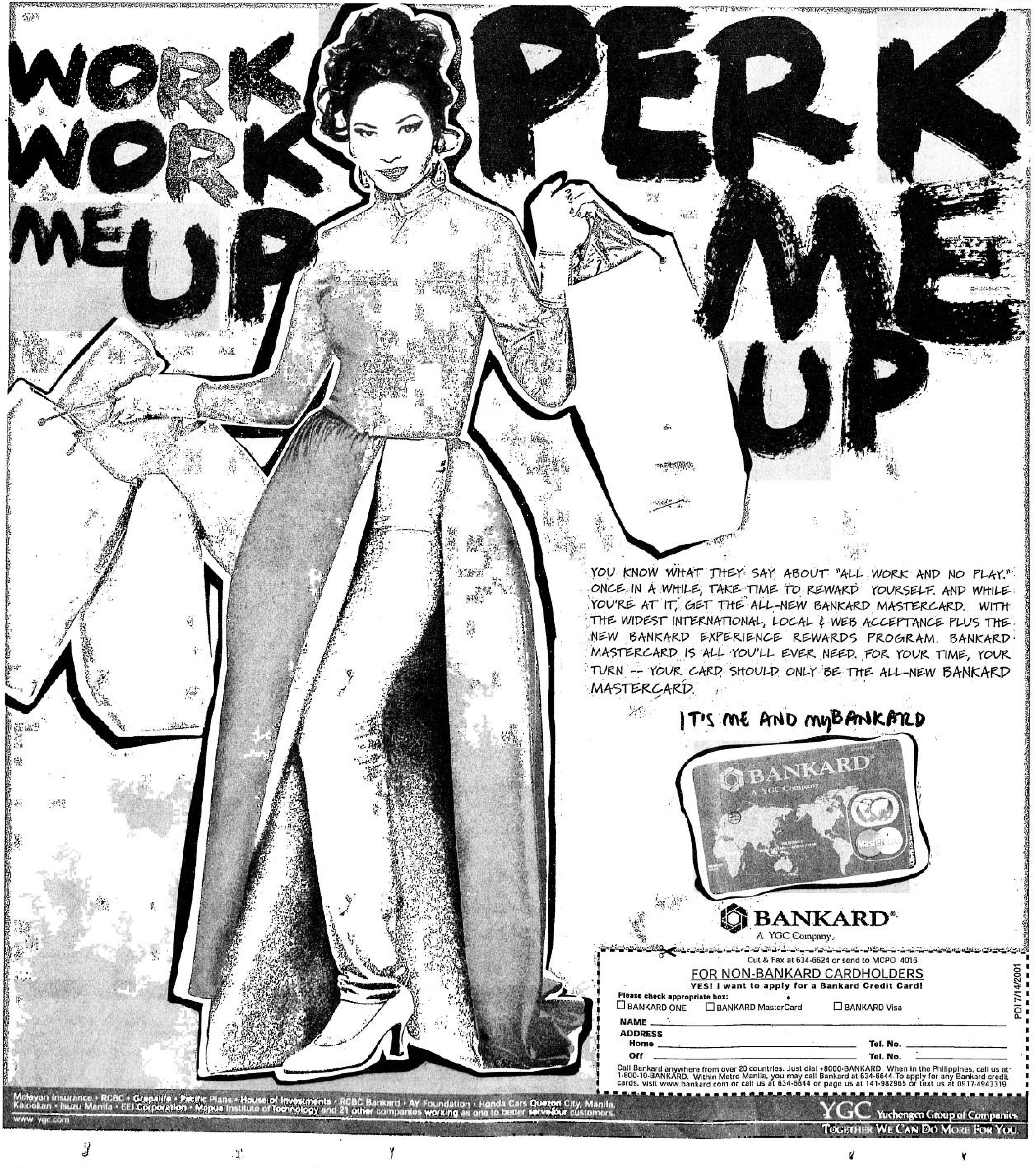
Last year's animated space adventure "Titan AE" tried to lure young boys—the principal target audience of video games—to theaters with its action-filled story of humans battling aliens. But the movie's story and its widely hyped animation combining CG and traditional effects failed to wow audiences.

Technology

So, as DreamWorks did with "Shrek," Sakaguchi and Square Pictures have tried to keep the technology from overwhelming the story in "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within." The technology was essential to create a fantasy world for a science fiction story about a futuristic Earth.

In "Final Fantasy," the filmmakers have gone to great lengths to make their digital characters "photo-real." Just do not expect them to look real-real—not in Hollywood, where an actress' hair can make or break her career.

Reuters



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Saturday SPECIAL

Backstage with KC Concepcion

By Gloria P. Sicam

KC (left) shares a happy moment with co-star Katrina Villarante.

PHOTOS BY MONICA GUTIERREZ

YOU know how Forrest Gump had this knack for stumbling into important moments in history without knowing it? He met JFK, was in the same interview as John Lennon, and mooned Richard Nixon without the slightest awareness of just how famous these people were. For him, they were people he just happened to meet. No big deal.

Exact opposite

Well, I am the exact opposite of Forrest. I've stumbled into show biz personalities and places and I am *incredibly* aware of it. And outwardly, I've put on a (what I hope is) nonchalant expression, but inside, I'm saying… wow, I can't believe I'm here!

Like when I sat beside Cherie Gil in a little restaurant in Singapore (she had come specifically to watch the opening of "Rent," to see her brother Michael de Mesa), and she was talking to me like we were both just regular people. All I could think of was, wow, I'm sitting beside the woman who said those famous lines in that movie I watched growing up… "You're nothing but a second rate, trying-hard copycat!"

And now it's happened again. I am working with KC Concepcion, the daughter of Megastar Sharon Cuneta and her on- and off-screen (for a time) love team partner, Gabby Concepcion in the musical, "The Little Mermaid." She's Princess Sapphire and I am her Lady-In-Waiting (translation: glorified *alalay*).

The significance, show biz-wise, of this young girl is not lost on me. The history of how she came to be is chronicled in many newspapers and entertainment shows. Her mother is one of the consistently famous faces in show business. Her stepfather is now a senator. The birth of her baby sister made headlines.

How do you cope with all this fame around you? How do you deal with the fact that your mom is one of the biggest stars in the Philippines, and that you are the product of one of the most adored love teams in Philippine entertainment? One would think a person put into a situation like that would grow up to be one of two things – a spoiled princess or a neurotic recluse. If you believe what movies tell you, anyway.

Pleasant and affectionate

But KC is anything but spoiled or neurotic. She is one of the most pleasant and affectionate 16-year-olds I've ever met. She is completely unaffected by the fame of her parents, and the potential fame she could gain if she wanted it. She's a breath of fresh air in the stale environment of show biz pretentiousness. Her mom has done a good job of keeping her feet planted firmly on the ground.

She enters the rehearsal room in her usual blouse and skirt (ever since our director told her that princesses wear skirts and not jogging pants). She gives everyone the usual *beso-beso*, and for some, a child-like hug and leaning of her head on various shoulders. It makes one think, with some fondness: What a sweet kid! She reminds me of my younger cousins all caught up in… well, being a teenager.

But while other teenagers put their *barkadas* above all else, this 16-year-old values her family. On her cellphone is an acetate of her and her baby sister Frankie. One rehearsal, she even brought a photo album full of pictures of her mom, her stepdad, her baby sister, and her cousins.

Megastar visit

One afternoon, none other than her megastar mom came over and visited, with Frankie in her arms and two *yayas* in tow. Our director, Jaime del Mundo, isn't one to be fazed by a visit from a mother and child, but babies in rehearsal are a magnet for all the women in the cast, and make them act like cooing idiots.

Frankie was a good sport through all of this – wonderfully civil, and didn't whimper once, even as a flock of strange women gathered around her and passed her from one person to the next. But when KC held Frankie in her arms, I thought, this girl just loves being an "*ate*".

BACKSTAGE/P. G4

FROM left, cast members Chari Arespacochaga, Cathy Azanza, KC and the author.

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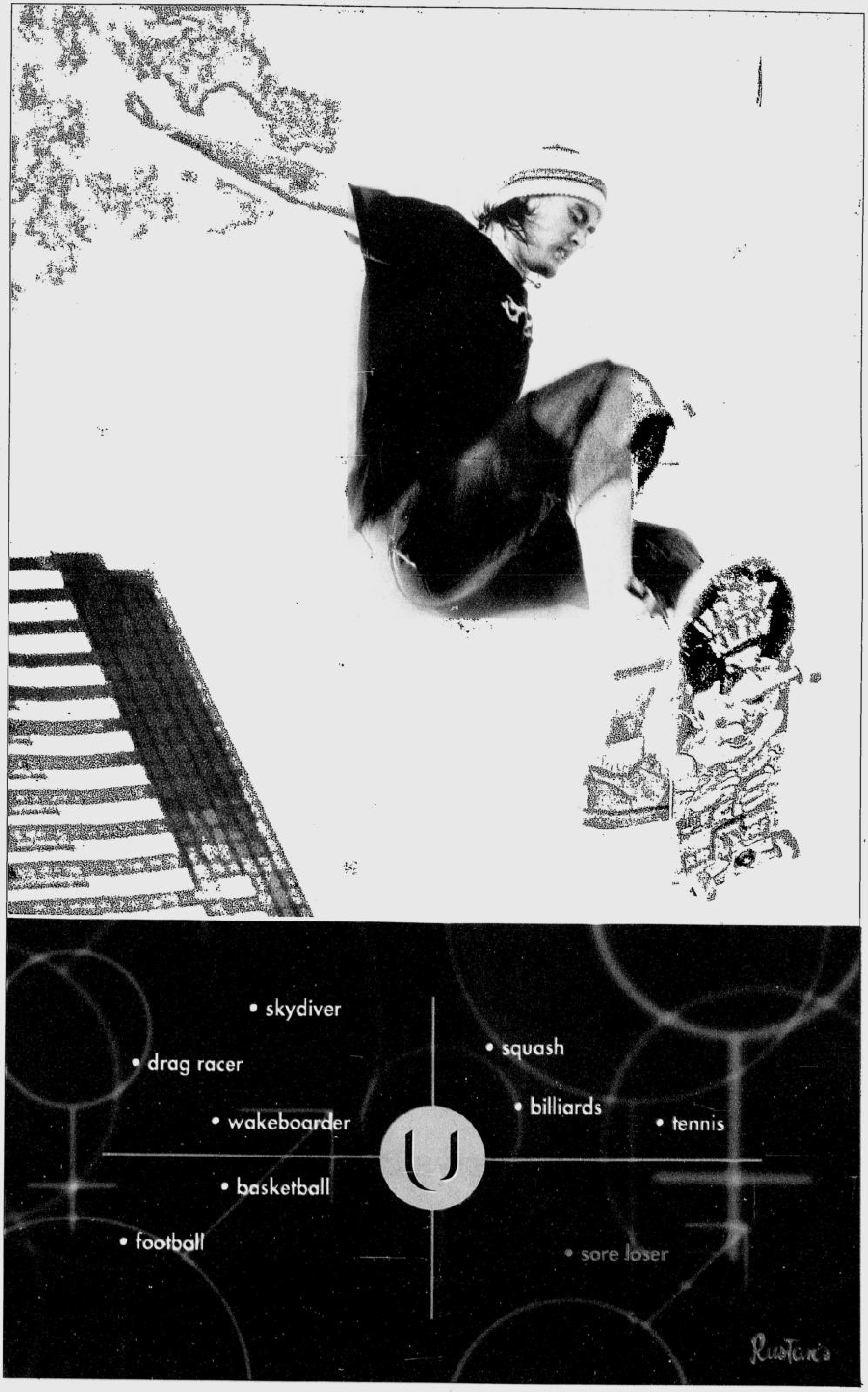

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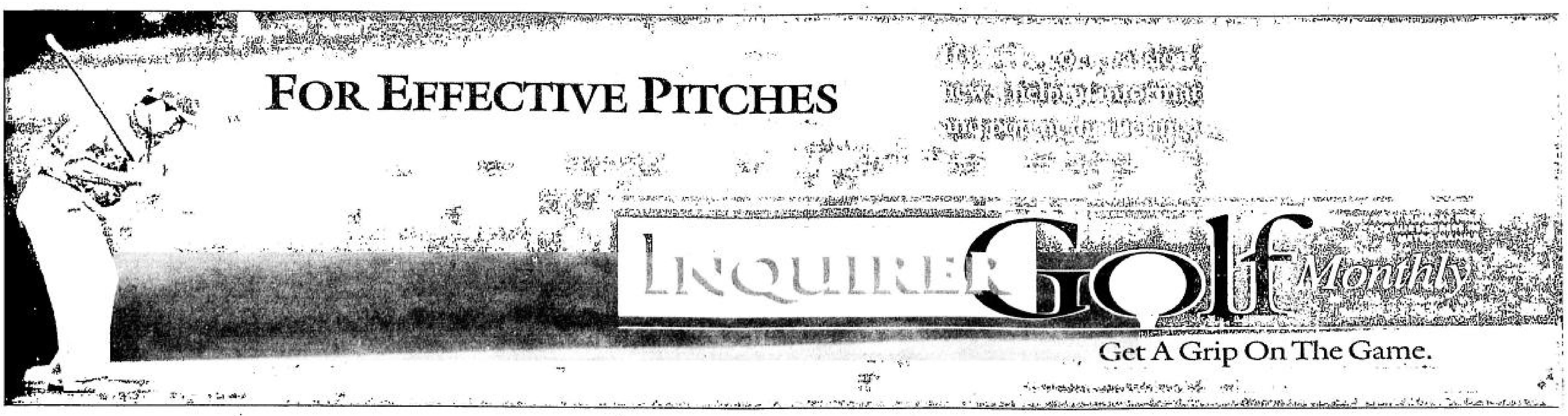
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'Pangako, Ikaw Lang' is sweet but facile

By Nestor U. Torre

JOYCE Bernal's latest film, "Pangako, Ikaw Lang," once more showcases her light, deft touch with romantic comedy, and reunites her with the stellar pair of Aga Muhlach and Regine Velasquez. This time, however, the storytelling is more diffuse than before, so the movie's impact is not as strong as their first collaboration, "Dahil May Isang Ikaw."

Desperate

This time around, Aga is engaged to a lovely but saccharinely sweet young woman (Ricci Ocampo), while Regine is still looking—and *looking*—for Mr. Right. She's getting rather desperate, and one can see why: at her age, her biological clock is *ticking !*

Regine meets Aga under the strangest of circumstances: her father (Robert Arevalo) is at the hospital when Aga is rushed in, all bloody and hanging on to dear life, after his car rammed into a truck.

For a moment there, it looks like Aga won't make it—but that would never do, of course, or else, there goes the movie! So, he survives, just barely, and that's when Regine starts visiting him, even if he's still in a coma, encouraging him to fight, to get better.

Strangely attracted

Later, Aga and Regine finally meet, and he finds himself strangely attracted to her. Little does he know that she subliminally implanted herself into his subconscious when he was in a coma. And he definitely doesn't know that she once almost caused his death at the hospital by accidentally unplugging his life support system—she doesn't tell him anything about *that*!

So, the film proceeds in this charming but diffuse way, with Aga flirting with Regine even if he's already engaged to somebody else. For her part, Regine has a best buddy (Bobby Andrews) who is with her through thick and thin, and of course she doesn't know that he's madly and impossibly in love with her (just as she is with Aga).

VELASQUEZ AND MUHLACH. The chemistry's still there--but it isn't enough.

Ailing father

A strong secondary plot thread involves the love Regine has for her ailing father, who teaches her to be strong, not to fear rejection, to assert her love even if it seems impossible for her to end up in Aga's affianced arms.

Then there's Aga's younger brother (Bojo Molina), who gets a girl pregnant and doesn't know what to do about this first man-sized problem in his carefree bachelor's life. Unfortunately, the movie doesn't see this problem through to its resolution, one way or another.

As you can see, the film is light, deft, charming—and it's also bright and pretty, since Regine runs a flower shop and so the movie's motif is an explosion of flowers in practically all of its scenes.

Unreal

But it turns out that all of this deftness and charm isn't enough to "make" this film. After a while, Regine's character comes off as too simpering, too weepy, too self-aware in her "cute" mannerisms, and thus rather unreal.

Aga plays his role closer to his heart, and thus doesn't resort to too many "for-the-fans" mannerisms. Still, his character ends up also leaving something to be desired in terms of dramatic unction because he vacillates too much and too long between the two women in his life and heart.

As for Aga and Regine together, yes, the chemistry is still there—but it's also more apparent now that Regine looks older than he does (Aga's perpetual baby face is the curse of his leading ladies), so the bloom is off *that* rose.

Passive

The film could have acquired greater weight, focus and conflict if the role of Aga's fiancee had gone to a stronger actress. Ocampo is OK but too prettily passive (or passively pretty) to be much of a problem for the movie's stellar star-crossed lovers.

True enough, when the movie is about to end, Aga's fiancee obligingly steps out of the picture, leaving Aga and Regine free to guiltlessly indulge in the film's regulation climactic clinch.

As for Bobby Andrews, he too counts himself out of the movie's romantic equation, and that's too bad because, if he had been less obliging, he could have complicated the film's conflict as well—and complications are what this sweet but facile movie urgently needs.

Backstage with KC Concepcion

(From page G1)

It was amusing to watch Sharon's reaction to her daughter's performance during rehearsal. When KC and her co-actor playing the prince (Noel Rayos) stood up to do the "love scene" (which is basically when the prince and the princess profess their love for each other, and therefore involves some hugging and touching of faces), Sharon cleared her throat loudly, like a mom reacting to a potential suitor.

KC said, hastily, "Oh yeah, Mom, this is Noel… Noel, my mom…" as the cast laughed and wagged their fingers at Noel. When *Direk* Jaime cautioned KC not to be overly flirtatious in this scene, Sharon laughed and shook her head, as if to say, "*Haay naku*!" It must've been quite an experience for Sharon to watch her own daughter do what *she* does for a living. She looked like she was bursting with pride.

Openness

KC's doing quite well, considering this is her first foray into the professional theater world. She's got this openness and willingness to learn that not many young talents have these days. She and I have made up our own private jokes so that we can laugh together on cue. A bit complicated to explain in this article, but all we have to do is make a gesture with our hands and we're sent into gales of laughter.

And although our director keeps on reminding her to stop leaning forward so much and to remember to stand on both feet (and not on tiptoe), she's beginning to succeed in portraying an older, more mature woman – well, at least a few years older and more mature than 16.

DIRECTOR del Mundo gives pointers to KC (center) and the author.

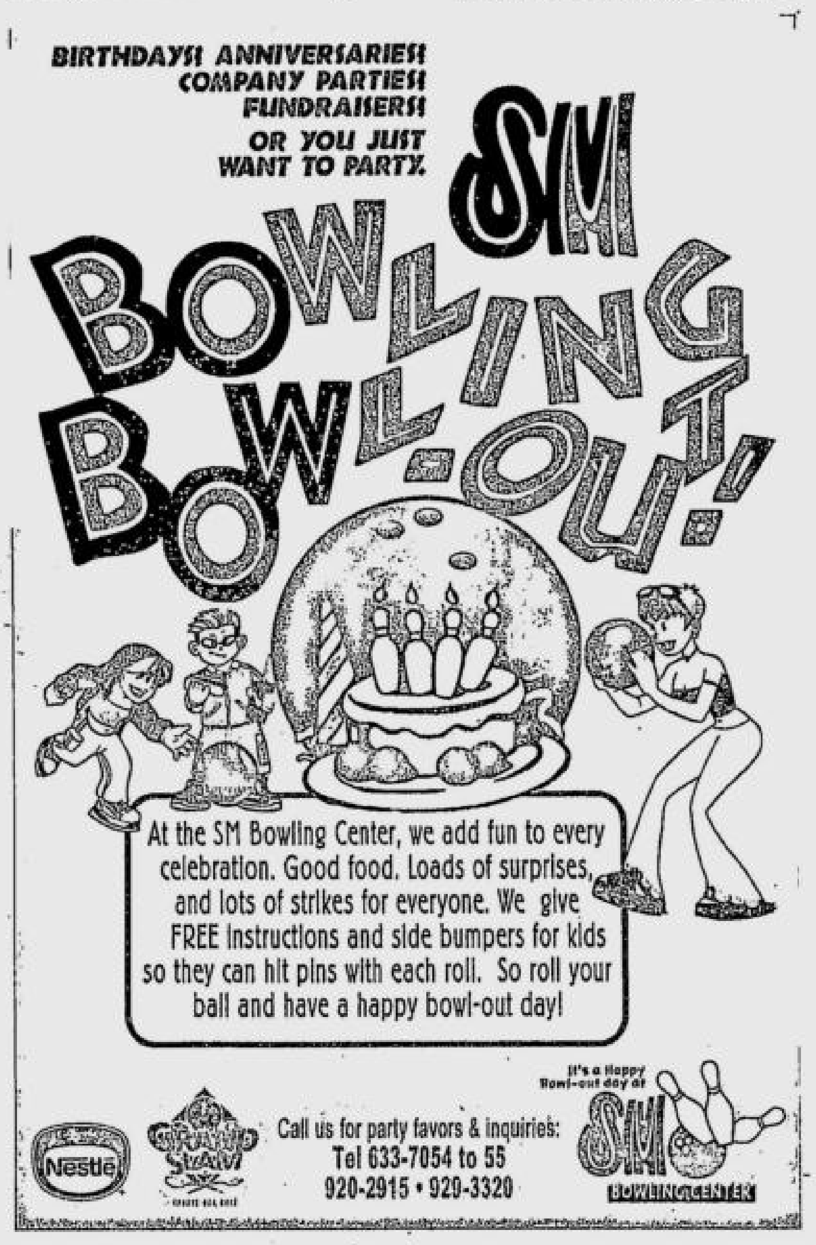
Not only is she open to learning, but she's also open to forming friendships and… well, bonding with the rest of the cast. The other day, a big portion of the cast went out to watch "Tomb Raider," and KC came along (with her *yaya*, who is there for every rehearsal. KC calls her *yaya* her best friend. Maybe I should observe her to know what to do as her "*yaya*" onstage). We had coffee after, and KC was there, talking it up and playing games with the rest of us.

Auditions

What impresses me the most about KC is that she got the job just like the rest of us did – she lined up and went through nerve-wracking auditions. When asked what part she was auditioning for, she said: any part at all. That commands my respect. She didn't go through the agent/special auditions route.

Another thing I like about her is just how easy it is to make her laugh. I feel like the world's greatest comedienne around her. There are people who are just like that – you like making them laugh because you love hearing their laughter. KC's one of those people.

Whatever she decides to do with her career – and it's beginning to look promising, what with her being the image model of Human and this role in "Little Mermaid" – I'm just glad I got to know her and that I can make her laugh. Because she's one loveable, down-to-earth kid… someone really worth knowing.



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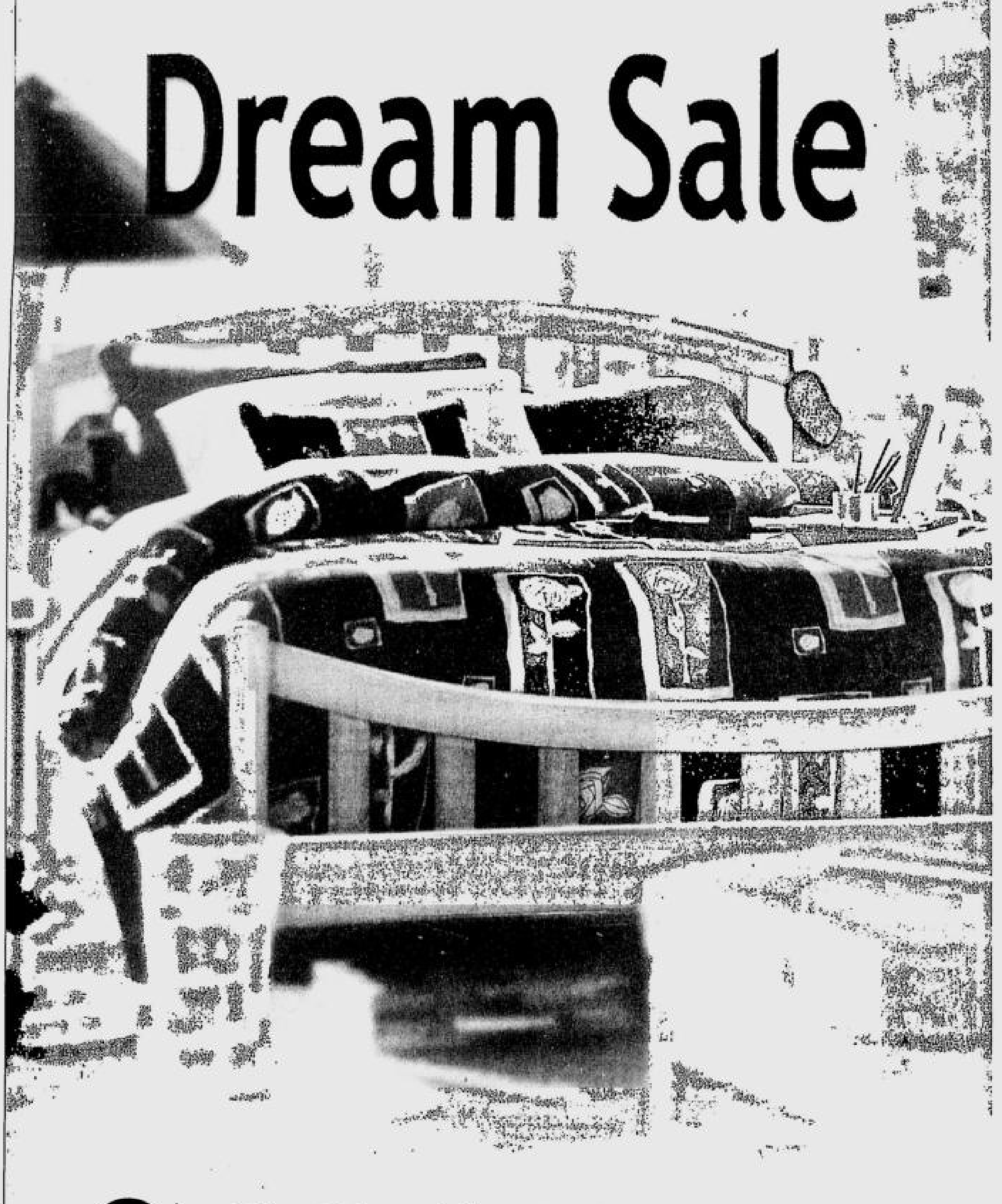

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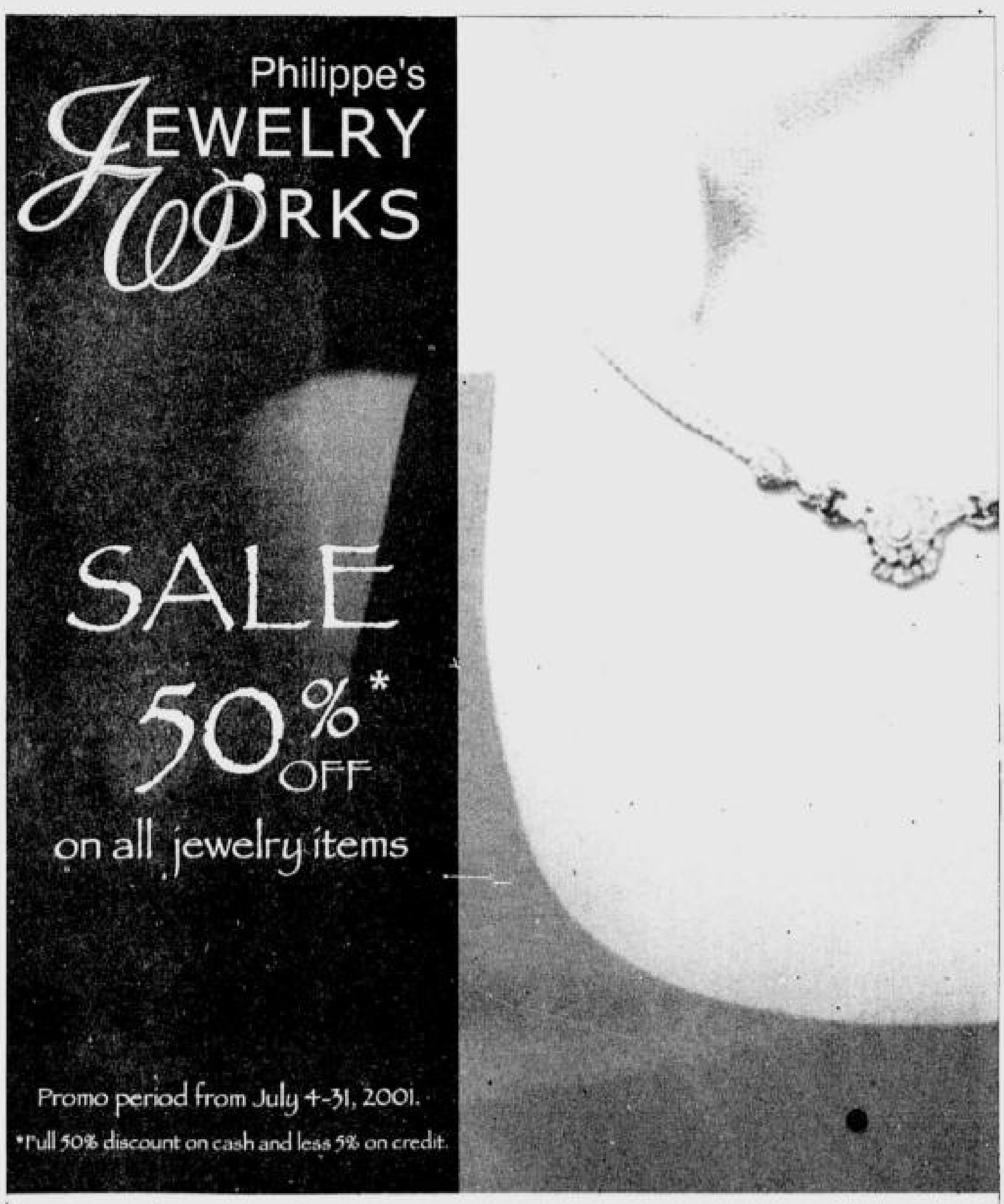

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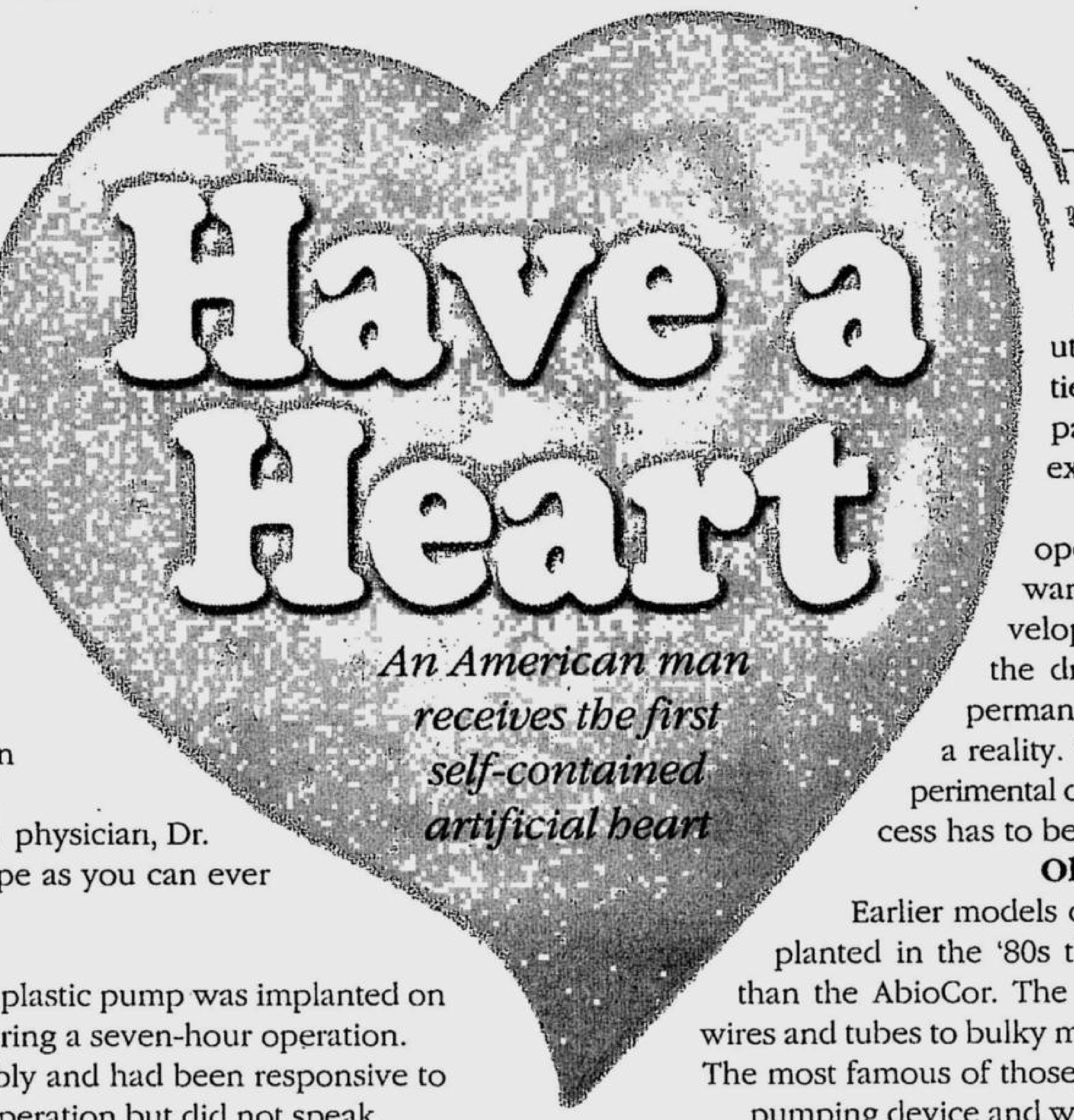
- The Lunch Box Page 11



Have a Heart

An American man receives the first self-contained artificial heart

HE had been suffering from kidney failure and diabetes and has had several heart attacks. He was also given an 80 percent chance of dying within 30 days and no hospital wanted to give him a heart transplant. So last week, this man turned to his last hope: to be given a heart made of titanium and plastic.

Now, though his identity has not been announced, will go down in history as the first person to receive a self-contained artificial heart. His doctors have said though that he is in his mid to late 50s.

"He had no other option," said his physician, Dr. Laman Gray. "He was in as dire shape as you can ever have anybody in."

Looks OK

The grapefruit-sized titanium and plastic pump was implanted on July 2 by Gray and his colleagues during a seven-hour operation.

The patient was resting comfortably and had been responsive to family members the night after the operation but did not speak.

It was the first major advance in the development of an artificial replacement heart in nearly two decades, although it received a cool reception from one of the field's best-known pioneers, Dr. Robert K. Jarvik.

"Many years of experience have taught us that cutting out the heart is unnecessary," said Jarvik, who helped develop artificial heart technology. Medical science should instead focus on devices that assist the heart in healing, he said.

The Plastic Heart

The device, called AbioCor, has electronic controls that adjust the pumping speed based on the body's needs. It is powered by a small battery pack worn outside the body that transmits current through the skin.

The heart also has a rechargeable internal battery, about the size of a pager, that can work on its own for about 30 minutes—long enough for a patient to remove the battery pack and take a shower, for example.

Although doctors say the operation is a major step forward in the artificial heart development, they also insist that the dream of an "implantable," permanent artificial heart is not yet a reality. The AbioCor is still an experimental device whose long-term success has to be seen.

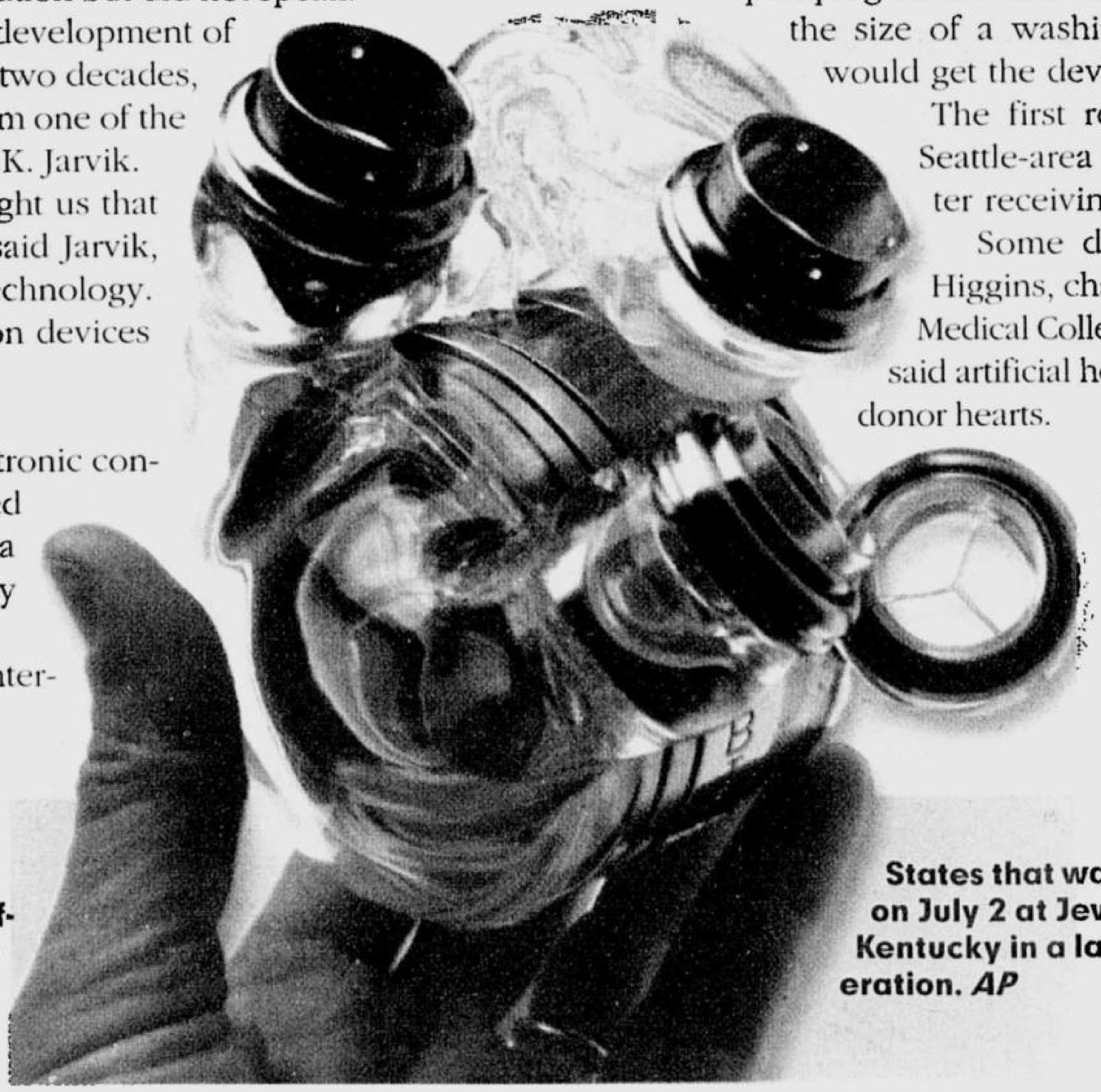
Older Models

Earlier models of artificial hearts were implanted in the '80s though they were clunkier than the AbioCor. The devices were attached by wires and tubes to bulky machinery outside the body. The most famous of those, the Jarvik-7, used air as a pumping device and was attached to an apparatus the size of a washing machine. Five people would get the device in the early 1980s.

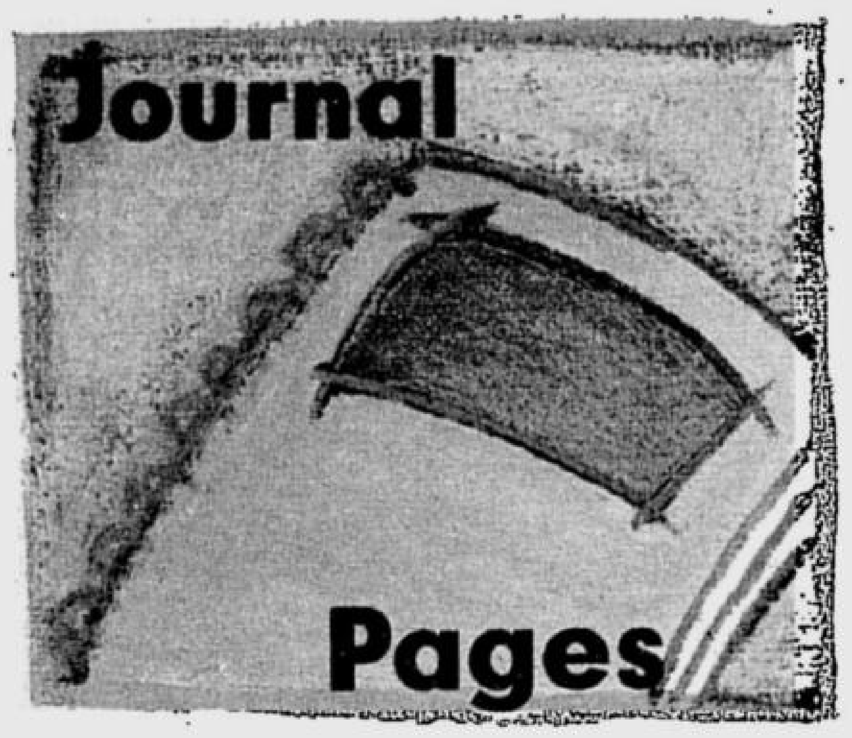
The first recipient, Barney Clark, a Seattle-area dentist, lived 112 days after receiving a Jarvik-7 in 1982.

Some doctors, including Robert Higgins, chairman of cardiology at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, said artificial hearts are unlikely to replace donor hearts.

"A donor heart in a good transplant can last 15 to 30 years," he said. "It's going to be hard to replace that with a machine." *AP*

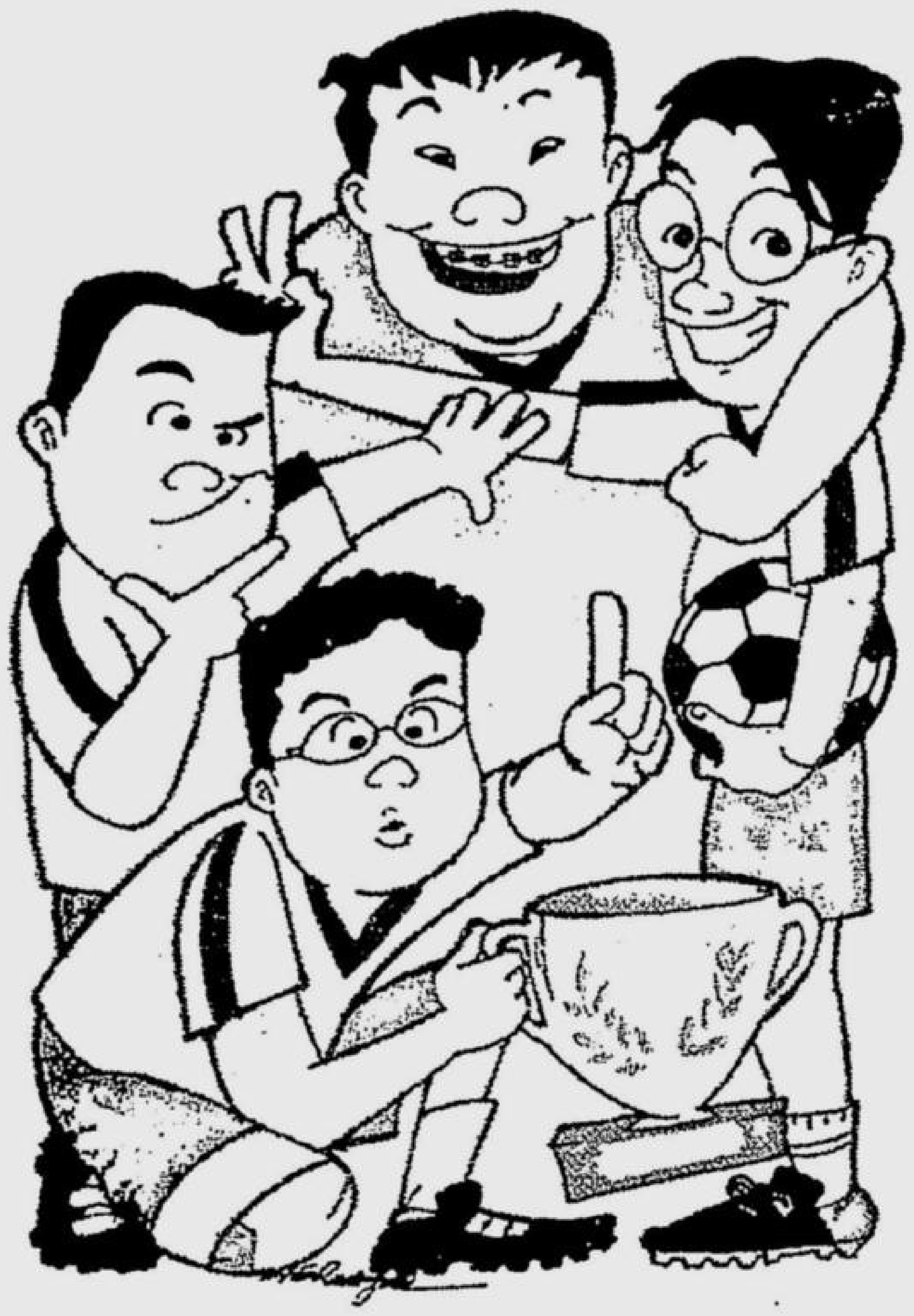


IT'S A. . .HEART?
This file photo shows the AbioCor self-contained, mechanical heart developed by Abiomed Inc. of the United States that was implanted into a patient on July 2 at Jewish Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky in a landmark experimental operation. *AP*



Soccer

BY AARON DANTE M. MAMIIT
LA SALLE GREENHILLS



I GAZE across the soccer field and breathe in the scent of freshly watered grass. I feel the soccer ball under my foot and I can't help but feel right at home.

I started playing soccer four years ago. I have to be honest. I was all books then: always worried about my grades, reading all the time. But we had to play soccer in P.E. class and that's where it started. And that's when I felt something new. It was almost as if playing soccer woke something inside me.

That year, I played for our class soccer team during our intramurals. We didn't win any championships. But from that year on, I fell in love with the sport. I started playing it a lot and tried hard to improve my playing.

All that practice paid off. In the last two years, our class emerged as the champions. Not me, OK? The CLASS. We also surprised many. Since we were the honor section—the "geeks"—not many expected us to excel in sports. That was one thing I learned from the sport. Any team could win.

I learned about teamwork. I learned how to trust my teammates. I discovered that it feels good to roll on the grass.

But the most important thing I learned was that I could change myself. That I didn't have to be all books for the rest of my life. That I could be whatever I want to be. For the first time in my life, I felt relaxed. When I'm on that field, all I think about is the game: not my grades, not my books and not what others think about me.

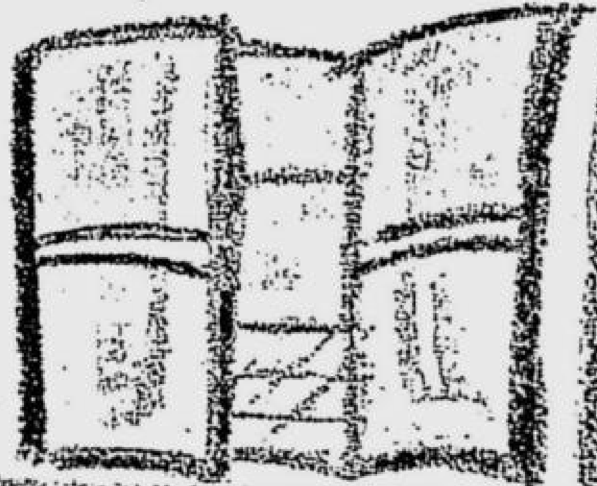
I feel so relaxed while playing soccer. Maybe it's the sight of the field. Maybe it's the smell of grass. Maybe it's the feeling of the soccer ball. Whatever it is, I'm thankful for it. This sport changed my life.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Say No! to pirated CDs

I RECENTLY bought a Dido CD which I really like. But when I went home to listen to it the songs were cut and shortened. I was really mad because I spent P300 for it. So I went to the store where I bought it. When I got there I was surprised to find that the music store was gone and in its place was now a snack bar. According to the manager of the snack bar, the owners of the music store were arrested for selling pirated CDs. Now I know that I should first check if a CD is a genuine product and if it's sealed. I also ask to listen to the CD first before I buy it. So say no to pirated CDs! When you buy these, the money doesn't go to the artists but to the copiers. Many people out there buy pirated CDs because they are cheap. But these are not reliable.—**DEBORAH BAYBAY**, 11, Miriam College, Quezon City

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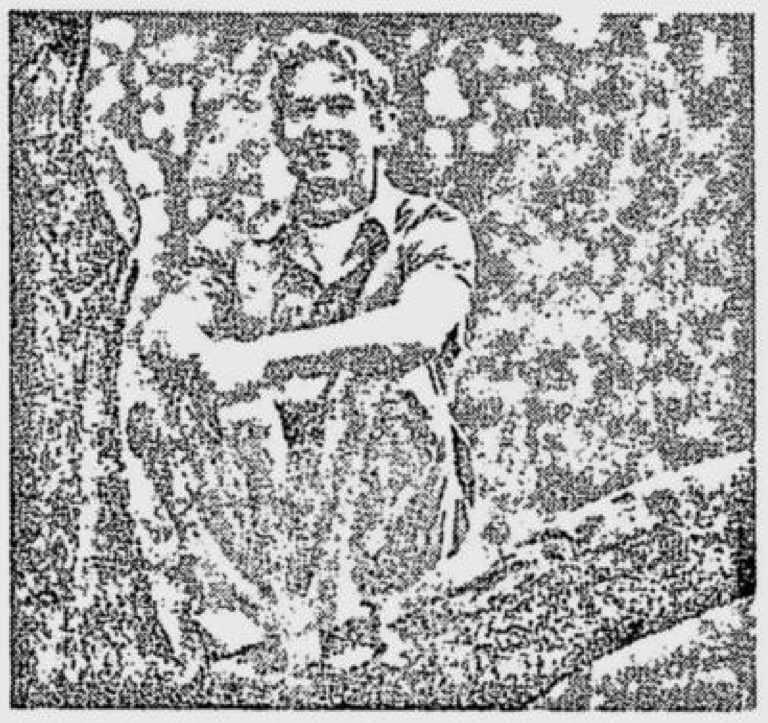
WORLD SCOPE

Big Little Cats

AT TORONTO'S African Lion Safari. Four-week-old cheetah cubs Khyber and Marikele cuddle up to get their chows. **AP**

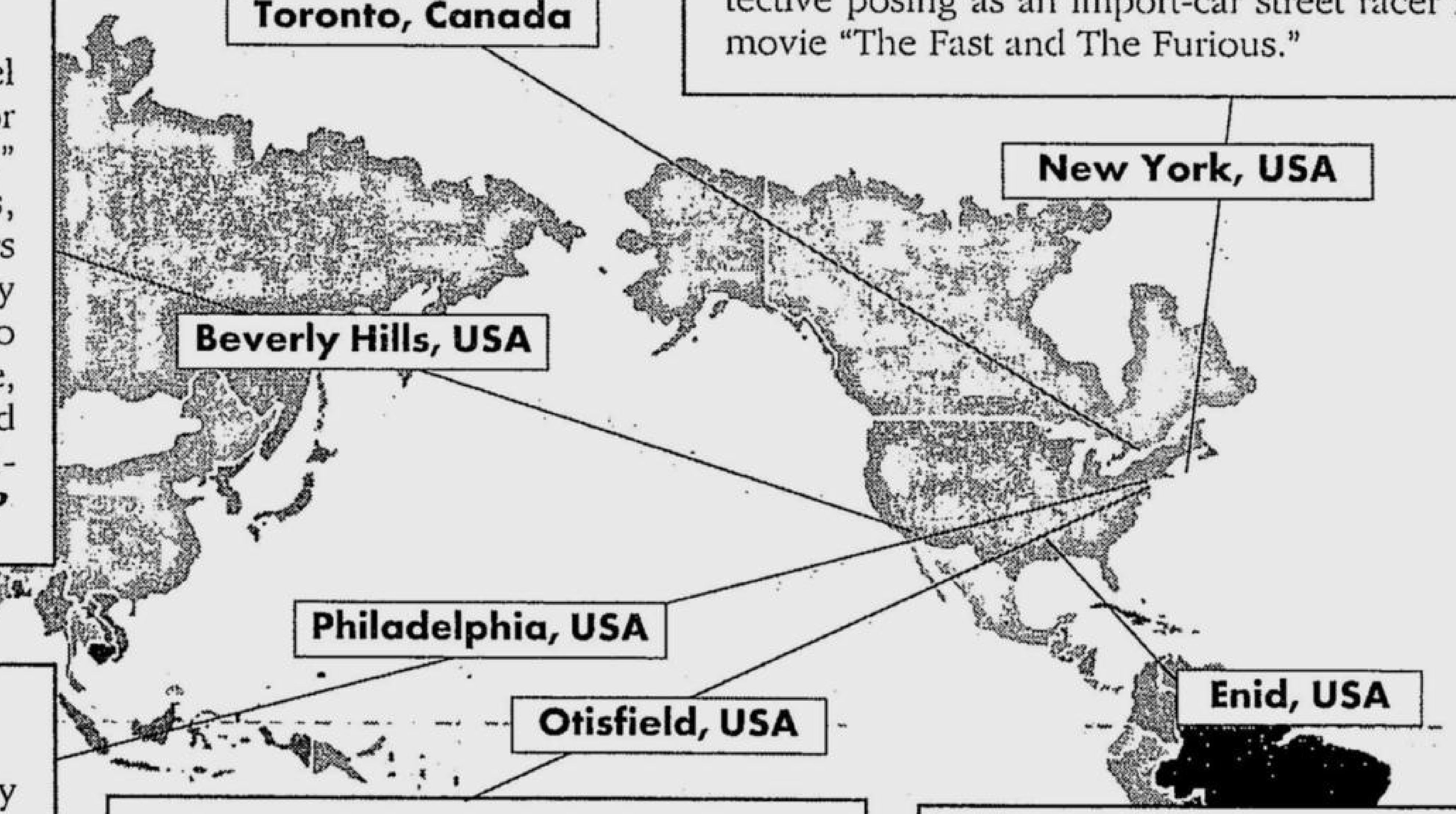
From acting to nature

US ACTOR Paul Walker stoops on a tree limb in New York's Central Park. Walker's career aspiration changed to marine biology, and now the 27-year-old says he wants to open a marine-science camp in Central America that would teach local students most of the year and open up to American kids during the summer. But, says the easygoing Walker, being an actor is cool, too. He plays an undercover detective posing as an import-car street racer in the new movie "The Fast and The Furious." **AP**



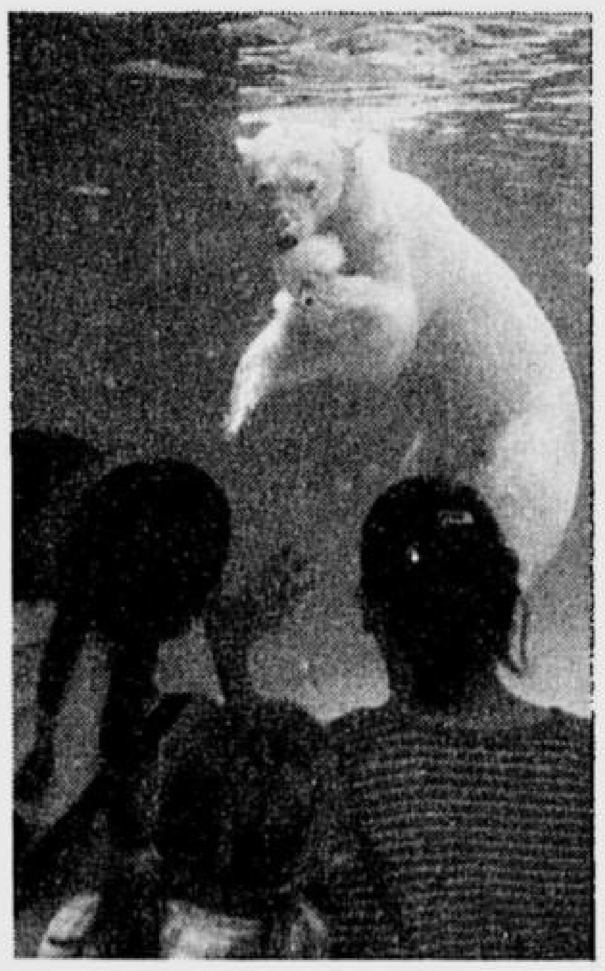
Osment's Latest

ACTOR Haley Joel Osment arrives for a screening of "A.I." in Beverly Hills, California. He stars as a robotic boy programmed to love in the movie, which was directed by Steven Spielberg. **AP**



Ice candy, anyone?

WHEW! A polar bear cools down by munching on a large chunk of ice at the Philadelphia Zoo. The US National Weather Service and the City of Philadelphia last month issued heat advisories asking people to keep cool through the period's near-record breaking heat. **AP**

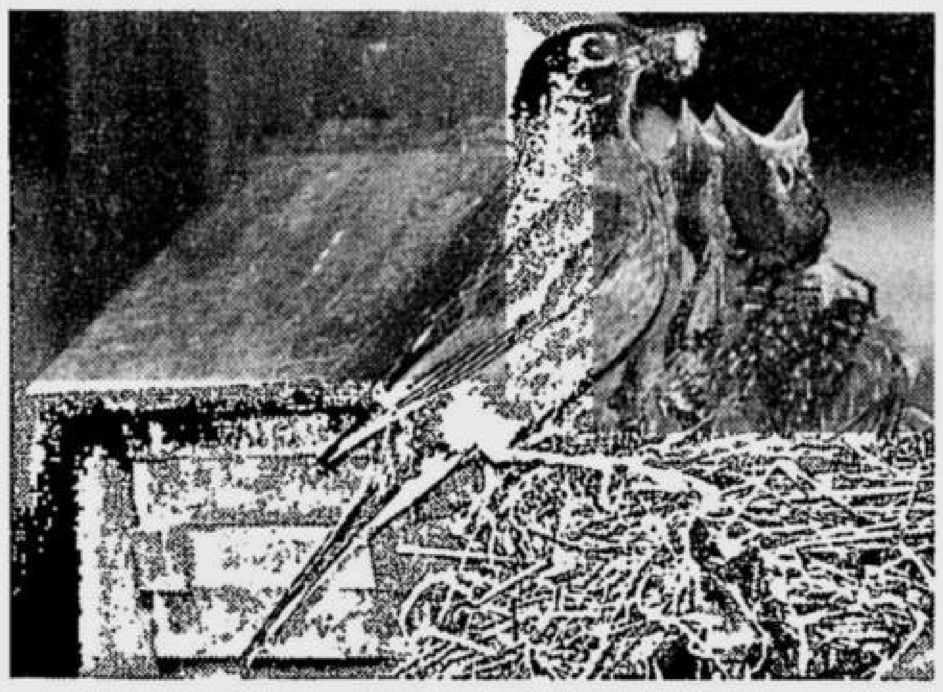


Kids for Peace

AMAL Khan of Pakistan speaks about seeking to overcome her country's hostilities with neighboring India during the opening ceremony at the Seeds of Peace camp in Otisfield, Maine. The international camp brings together teenagers from countries that are enemies. This year is the first time the camp is hosting kids from Pakistan and India. **AP**

Birdhouse Scene

A ROBIN feeds its two babies their morning feast as they cry out to be fed in the nest the robin made in front of a log cabin birdhouse. **AP**



Shadows' Bestfriends

Here is a group of friends who play with light and make friends with the dark

ON A SCREEN the size of a big white blanket, a little bird flaps its wings in flight. Not far behind is a wily cat with a sly-sneaky grin. The cat advances slowly toward the unsuspecting bird. What follows is a flurry of fur, feathers and barbecue sticks.

Actually, what the audience is seeing on the screen are cardboard cut-outs of a cat and bird mounted on barbecue sticks. Shadow puppets, in short. The group bringing these puppets to life is called the Anino Shadow Collective.

Brownout goofing

Way back in the '80s, students of the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling often had to contend with brownouts that would last for days. At night, instead of just lying in bed and sweating horribly, some students in the dormitories crawled under their blankets with their flashlights and started making shadow. Soon the students were making real shadow puppets. A storyline, music and other effects followed.

Other PHSA students over the years became interested in the shadow play and when many of them met each other in college a couple of years ago, they decided to make Anino their official group.

Perky puppeteers

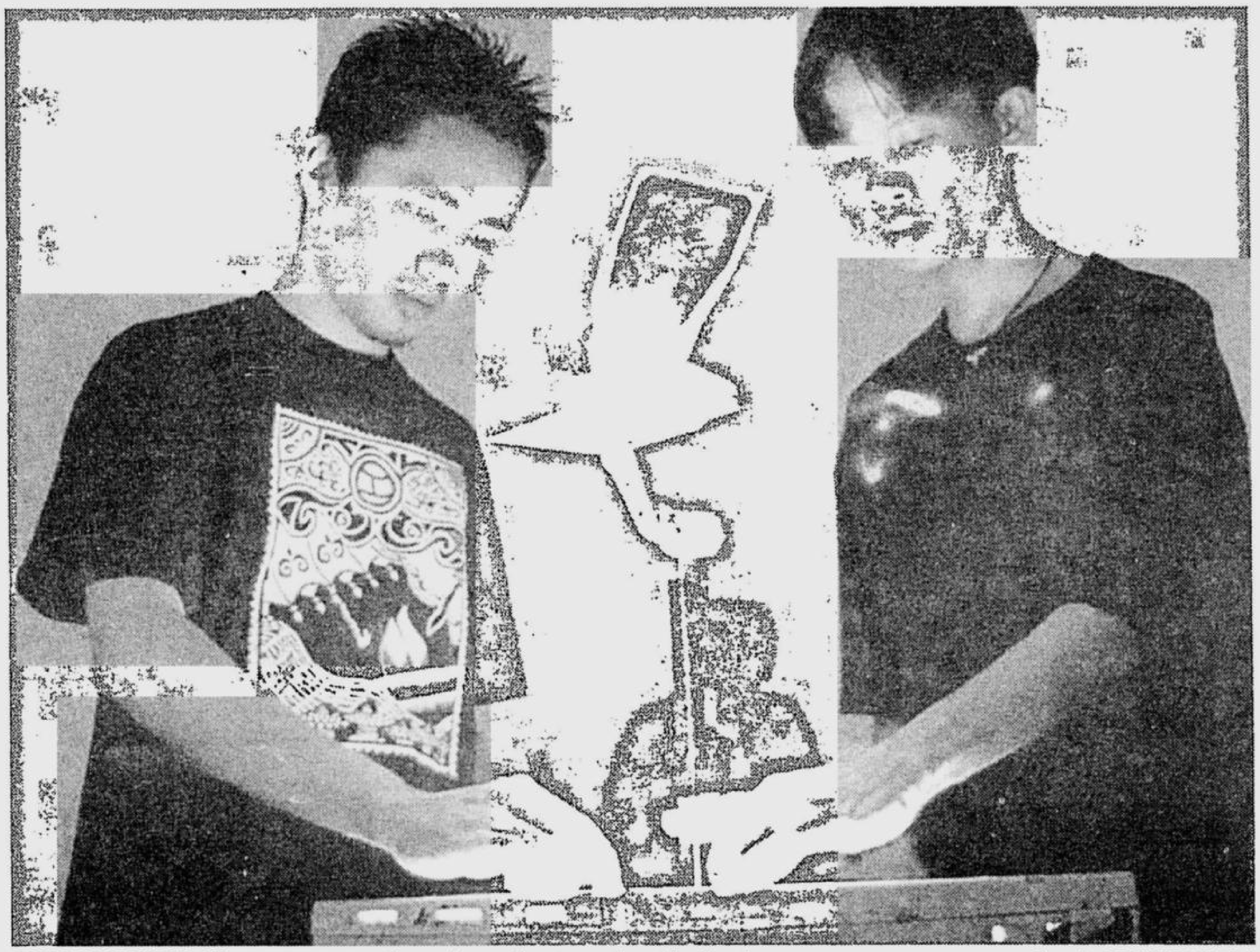
The present batch of Anino puppeteers is a pretty close-knit and fun-loving lot.

"We know each other's sleeping habits!" laughs their artistic director, 21-year-old Melecio Yamomo Jr.

"The members of the group were our *ates* and *kuyas* at Makiling, so we're all good friends," adds another Anino member, 18-year-old Daniel Querijero.

This friendship, they all agree, makes creating and handling shadow puppets even more fun.

As the youngest girl in the group, 18-year-old Rosabelle Pangilinan, points out, "I really feel like most of the time we're just playing."



INNOVATIVE. They use overhead projectors for their shows.

Photos by ROMY HOMILLADA

Impressive show

Unlike other traditional shadow plays which make use of either candles or light bulbs and two-foot high puppets that are usually pressed against the screen, the Anino group's puppets can fit in the palm of your hand.

They use an overhead projector as their source of light and when the puppets are placed on its glass plate, they look bigger on the screen.

The group also uses cellophane, colored pens and even candy wrappers to give their productions color. For additional effects, they use prisms, a magnifying glass, a crystal, marbles and even a bottle of water. Sometimes they get real people to dance or pose in front of the projector and cast their shadows on the screen.

Special touches like these have impressed audiences around the country and even abroad where they recently represented the Philippines in the 1st International Festival of Shadow Theater held in Greece.

"If this were a painting," says company manager 23-year-old Marc Cosico, "it wouldn't be something that you could see permanently. It changes everytime."

Behind the scenes bonus

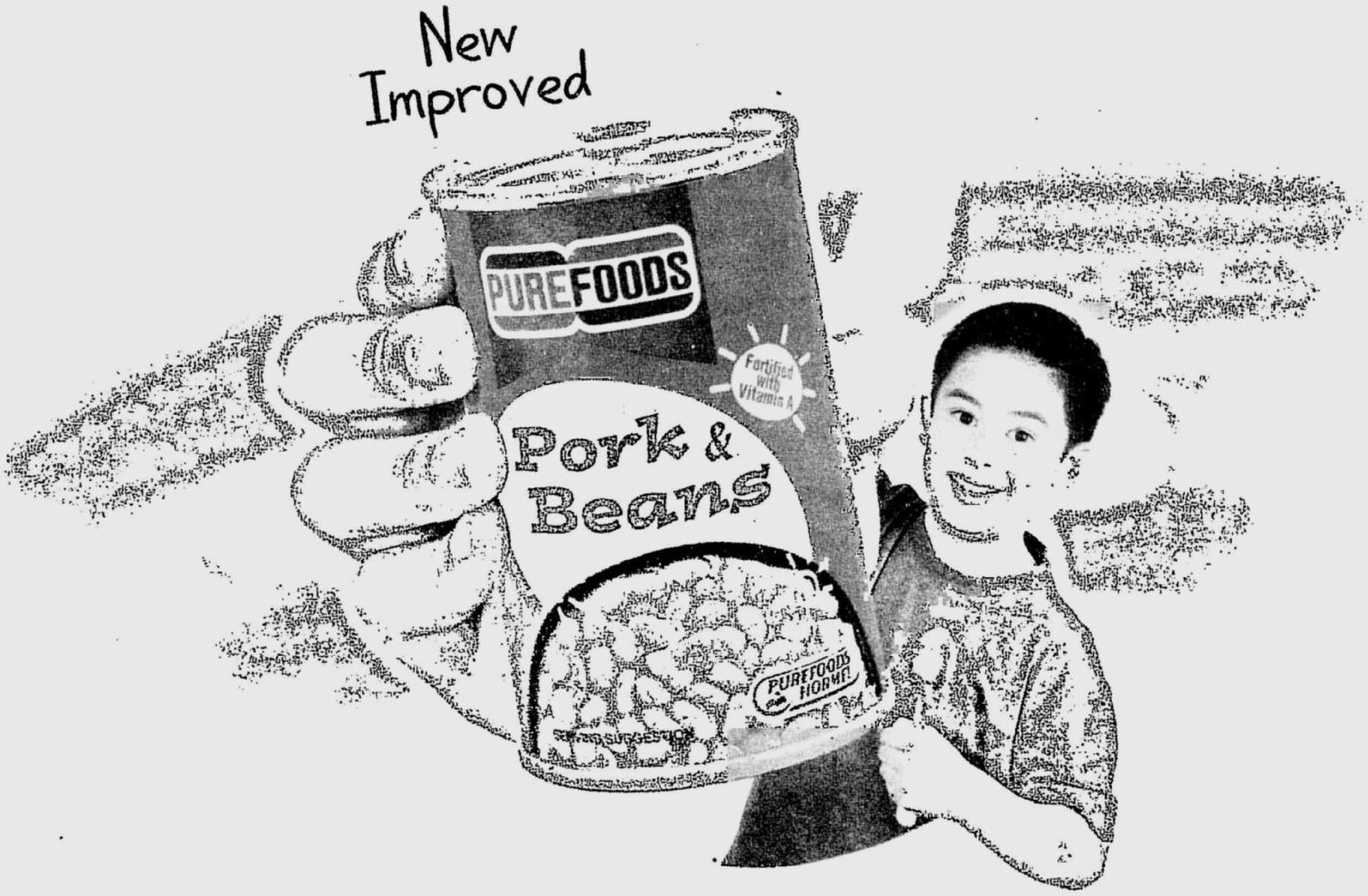
At the end of the show, the puppeteers go on kidding each other as they take down the set and pack all their puppets into only one suitcase.

Nineteen-year-old Laya Roma says it helps that they weren't tense at all during the performance. "We're all behind the screen so we never get stagefright," he says, grinning.

Outside, the people who saw the show are leaving the theater grinning too.

Christine C. Rivero

HELLO! The Anino Shadow Collective strikes a pose with their tools.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ANG BAGONG SWEET-SARAP!

Hey kiddo, now enjoy tender plump beans na oh-so-filling
In sweet thick sauce sila'y a-swimming.
Talagang sweet-sarap, a taste na panalo
Kaya I am sure magugustuhan natin ito.
Fortified with Vitamin A, pwede kahit anong oras pa
New improved Purefoods Pork & Beans,
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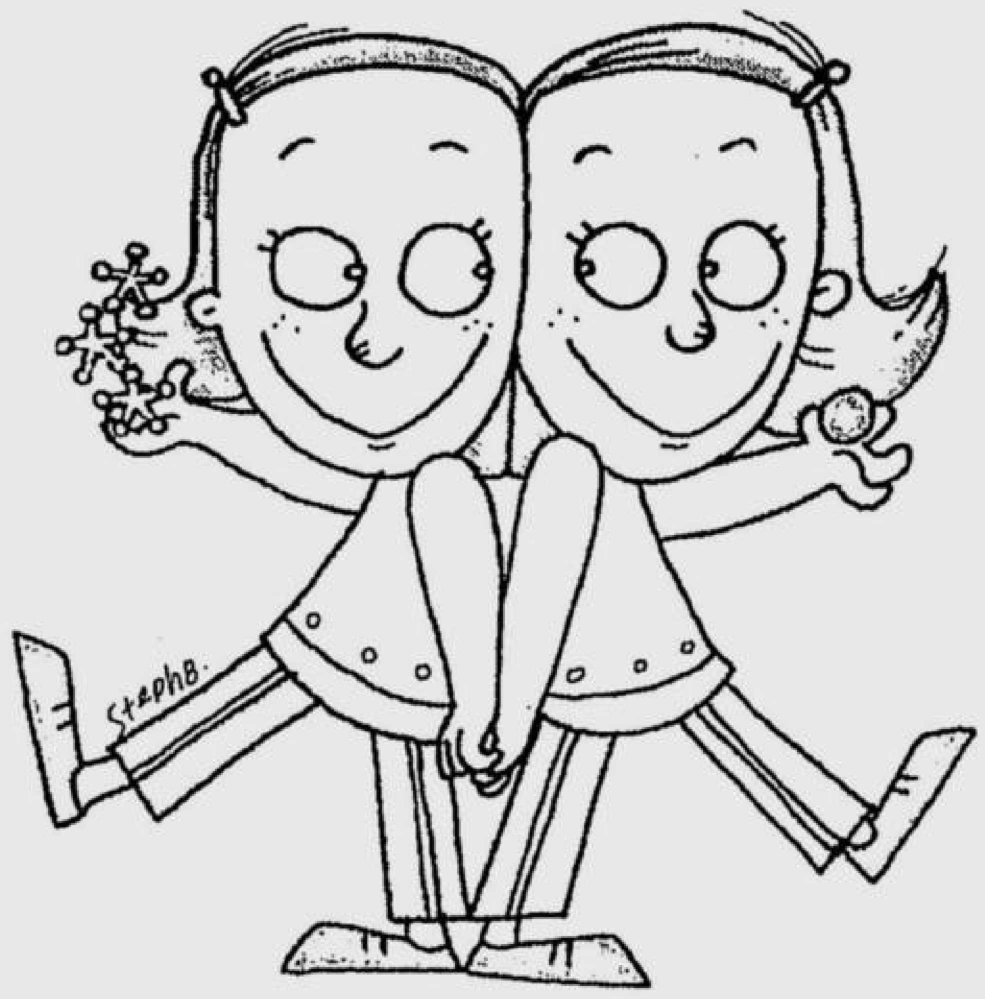
Mga Kambal na Tula

NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI STEPH BRAVO

FOR or By KIDS



Si Puti at si Itim

Maputi si Puti.

Maitim si Itim.

Kambal sila.

Magkamukha

ngunit magkaiba

ang kulay ng balat

kaya't pinangalanan sila

ng kanilang Tatay at Nanay

ng Puti at Itim.

Bawat taong nakakakita sa kanila

ay namamangha at natutuwa.

Kapwa mabilog ang mga mata,

Pareho ang mga biyas

ng binti at braso,

Magkasin-taba at laki.

Kapwa maliksi at bibo.

Pareho rin lagi ang kanilang damit

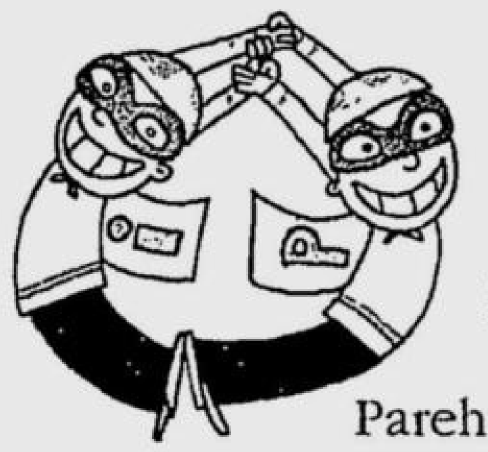
Ngunit nagkaiba sa kulay ng balat.

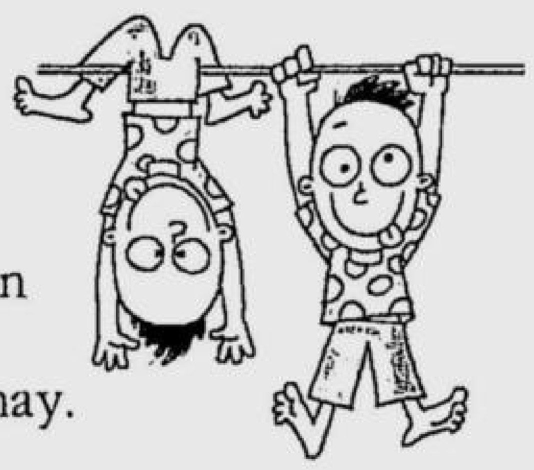
Maputi si Puti.

Maitim si Itim.

Ang tanging palatandaan

ng kanilang mga kapitbahay.

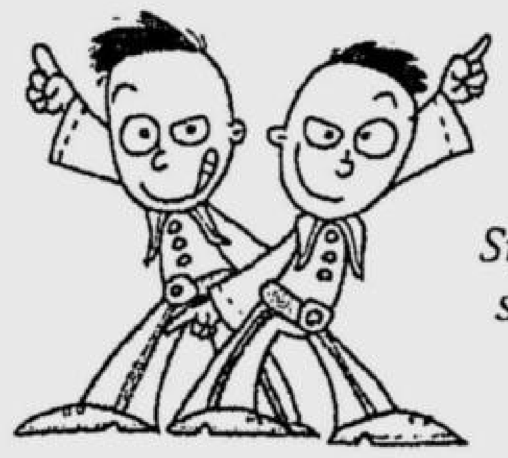




Sally Kasali, Rowena Puwera

Kambal din sila.
tulad nina Puti at Itim
ngunit sila ay kambal na babae.
Ang pangalan nila ay mula sa laro,
dahil sa isang laro daw minsan
ay may kasali at puwera.
Kapwa mahilig sila sa laro.

Magkamukhang-magkamukha sila.
Kaya't minsan napagkakamalan
na si Sally ay si Rowena
o si Rowena ay si Sally.
Sino ang kasali at puwera?
Kung hindi magsasalita ang isa man
kina Sally na kasali
at Rowena na puwera
ay patuloy na malilito ang kanilan mga kalaro
kung sino ba talaga ang kasali at puwera
sa kanilang sisimulang laro.



*Si **Genaro** ay taga-San Jose del Monte Bulacan.*
Siya ay may kapatid na dalawang kambal, isang kambal na lalaki
si Puti at si Itim at isang kambal na babae, sina Sally at Rowena.
*Si **Steph** ay staff artist ng Junior Inquirer.*

It's a Book! It's a Magazine! It's...

By Iggy Ipis

WELL, it's a magazine but not printed. Rather it's online. Check out the newest webzine for children in town, MagOzine at www.lessons.ph and JUST CLICK ON THE TARSIER.

MagOzine is actually part of larger website called lessons.ph. This is an educational website that provides reviewers and tons of other information for school work and research.

Grade school students can subscribe to review for tests in Science, Math, Reading, Language, Filipino and Araling Panlipunan.

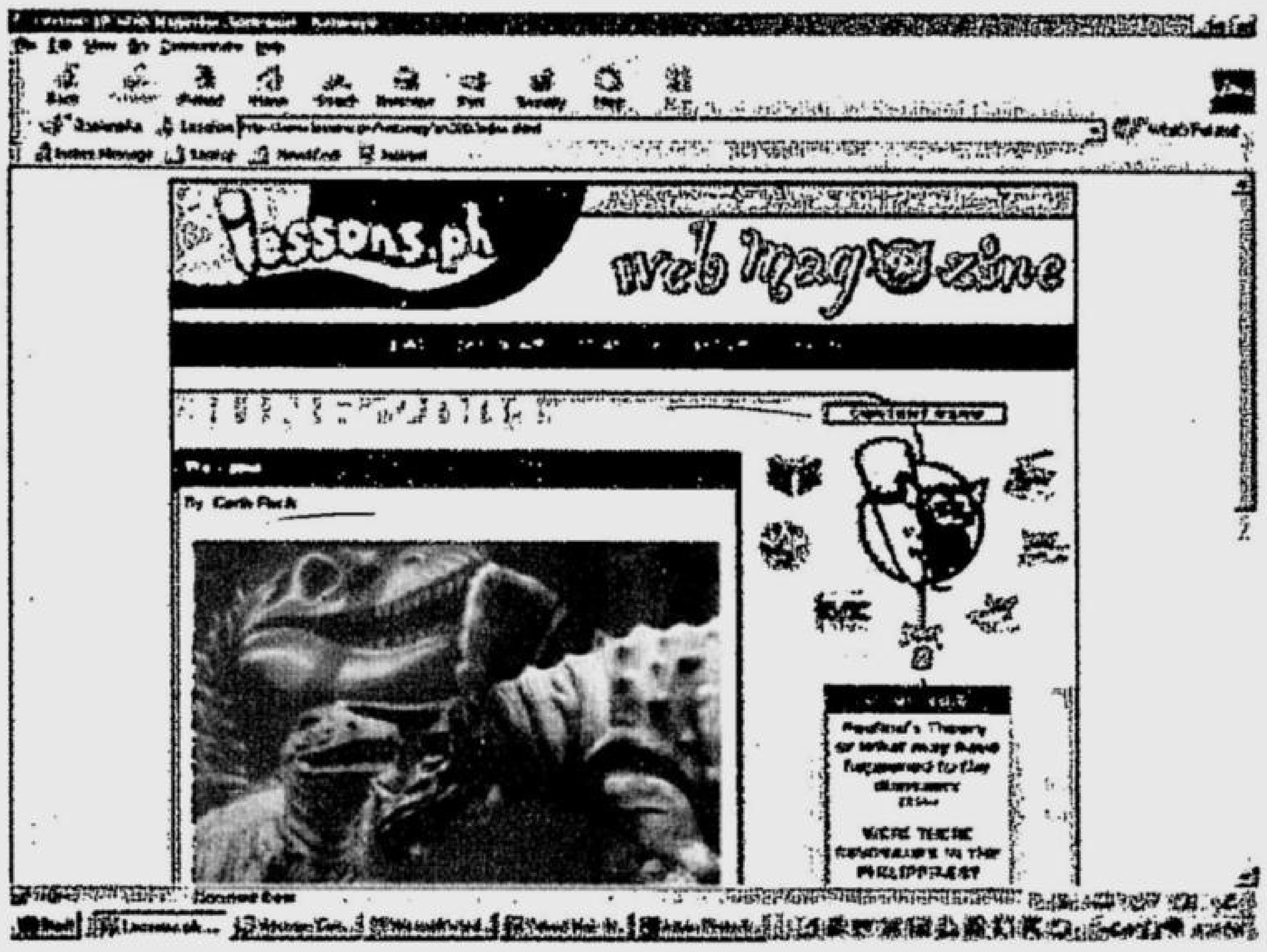
Simply click on the grade and subject and you're on your way to good grades. And when you need to take a break, there's MagOzine to click on to.

This webzine features poems, stories, articles, interviews, book reviews and an activity page. It will soon have a comic page that will have you in stitches.

Believe me, you've got to see it! Their mascot is a really cute tarsier and it does more than be cute!

Mago, by the way, is the local name for tarsier. It also means magician in some dialects. And yes, the pages of Magozine are filled with magic!

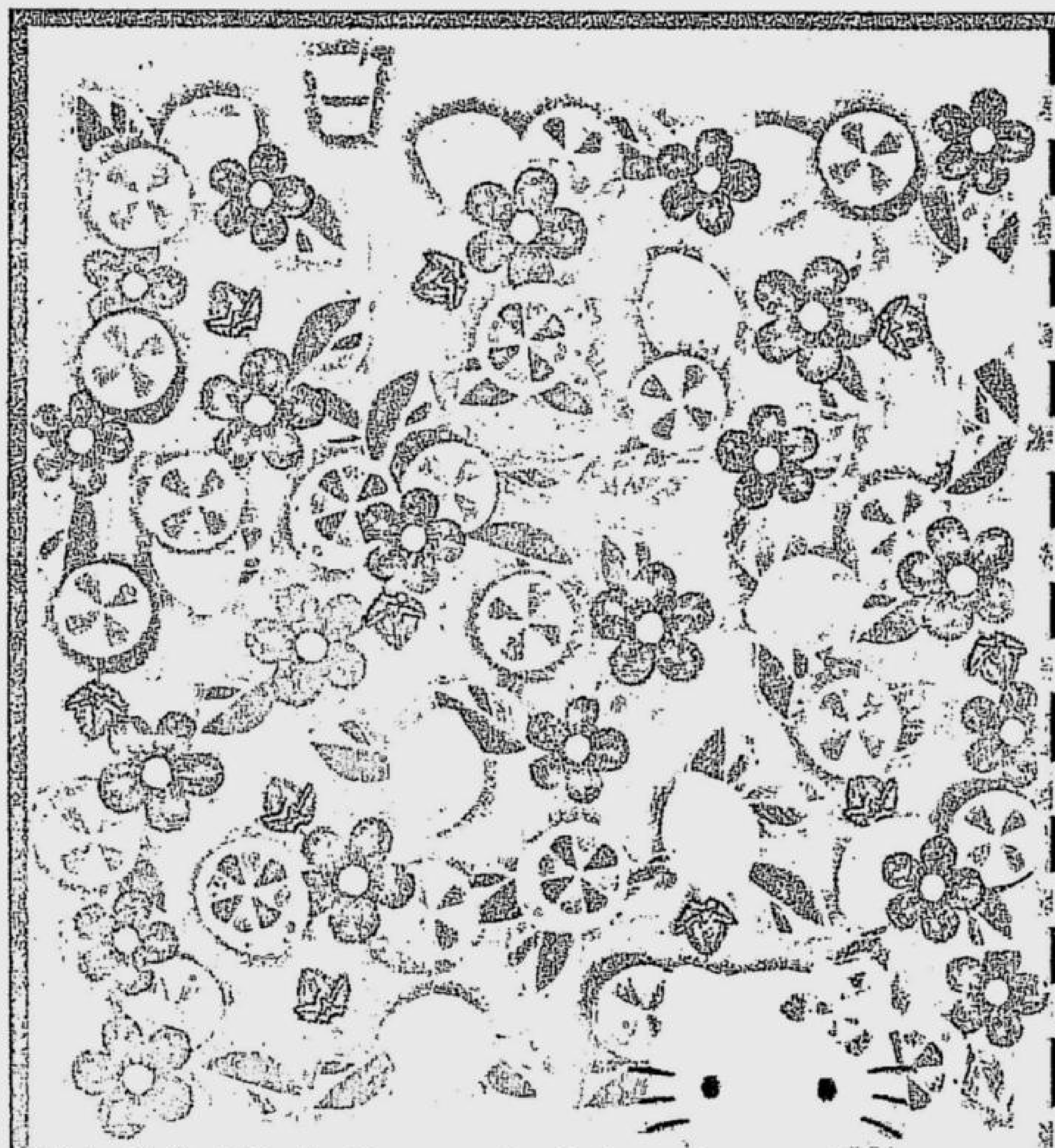
Just click on the tarsier!

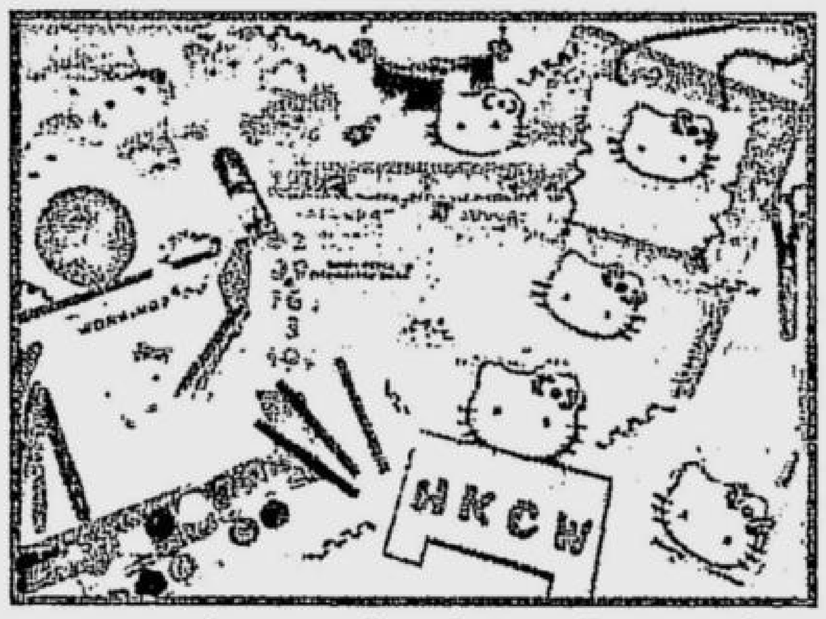


Oops. . .

THE POEMS "Sa Kaharian ng Mga Anay," "Ipis," "Langaw," "Lamok," and "Daga," published on JI's June 30 issue were written by DR. PAULINA FLORES-BAUTISTA, but was wrongly attributed to Genaro R. Gojo Cruz..

We apologize for the error.





Help Hello Kitty find her way back through
the maze so she can finish making
her Hello Kitty Cafe Pink Lemonade!

Name:________________ Age:________
Tel. No.:________________ School:________
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Hello Kitty cafe WORKSHOP

Create your own greeting cards, picture frames, bags, and more every Saturday & Sunday, 10:30-11:30 am at Hello Kitty Cafe.

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JULY 2001 CALENDAR

1	HELLO KITTY EYEGLASS CASE
7	HELLO KITTY CLOTH MOBILE
8	HELLO KITTY FRIENDSHIP BAND
14	HELLO KITTY PUZZLE WALL DECOR
15	HELLO KITTY PICTURE FRAME
21	HELLO KITTY PENCIL CASE
22	HELLO KITTY SHOULDER BAG
28	HELLO KITTY FLOWER POT
29	HELLO KITTY FUN FOAM MOBILE

Go crazy with the
Hello Kitty cafe LEMONMAZE CONTEST
and get the chance to win FREE CRAFT KITS!

1. Answer the maze correctly and fill up the form.
2. Cut along the dotted line.
3. Mail entries to: HELLO KITTY LEMONMAZE CONTEST
Kitty Cafe Philippines, Inc.
G/F Gift Gate Bldg.
Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, MM
4. One hundred (100) winners will be drawn on August 6, 2001, 4:00 pm at Hello Kitty Cafe Megamall.

Promo period is from July 7-28, 2001.
See posters for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A-3-337 Series of 2001

Mic's Magic

A 3-year-old boy has a few tricks up his sleeve, including knowing nearly all the flags of the world

THE LITTLE boy in blue pajamas smiles at us from the bedroom door. He introduces himself as Mic Sheldon Chan.

"How old are you?" we ask.

"Three," he says. "Wait, let me show you some magic."

Kids 'r'rrific

Feeling inside his pajama pocket, Mic makes the sound "pshhh-pshhh-pshhh," pulls out a small gray ball and announces, "Dyaraaaan!"

But just as quickly, he stuffs the ball back in his pocket. "Dyaraaaan!" he said again, "It vanished, didn't it?"

Flash card session

After laughing 'til we felt our sides ache, we manage to tell Mic, "Someone wrote to us and said you could name the flags of different countries. Is that true?"

Mic eagerly answers, "Yes!!!"

JI showed Mic flashcards of the flags of Japan, Portugal and Panama and Mic got them all right.

"I've been to Panama," he says, "Right Mama?"

His mom laughs. "He remembers going to our neighbor!" That neighbor happens to have a business called Panama Plastic.

We soon show him flags of other countries. "Sweden! United States!" he continues. We also showed him the flags of Bangladesh, Liberia, Israel and Australia. Mic got them all right and he was proud of his feat.

"See, I know them all," he says.

Smart kid

His mom—Tita Marilyn—says Mic has always had an incredible memory.

"At 1½ years old, he already knew the alphabet," she says, "after that, we taught him numbers, shapes and colors..."

She adds, "His mind was like a sponge, we were running out of things to teach him!"

That was when Mic's family decided to make him flashcards of the flags of the world. They first taught him the flag of Japan because it looked very simple.

Then later on, Mic could name almost any flag they showed him.

Mic also remembers people easily, his mom says. After Mic meets you, he will always remember you.

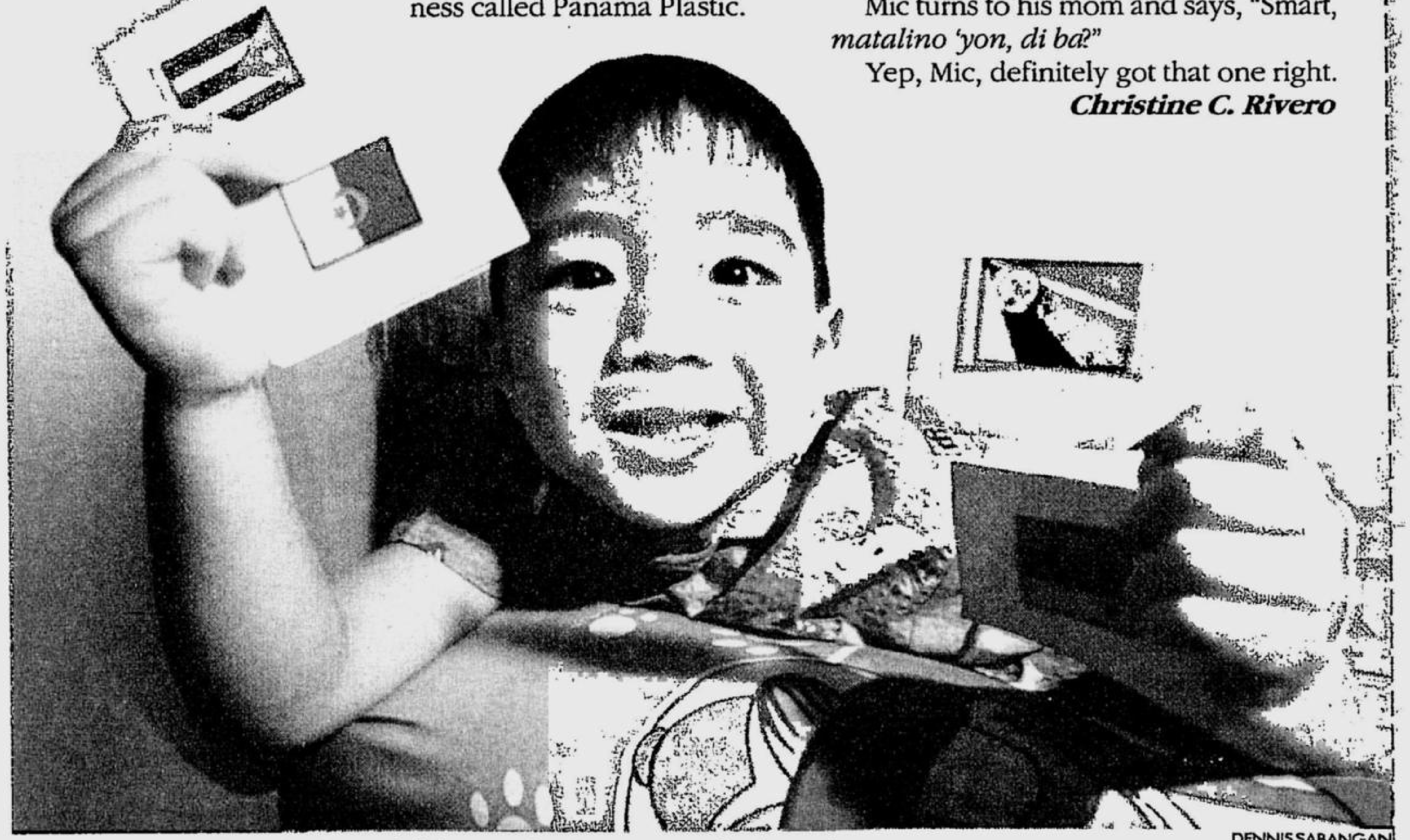
Pointing to the short hand of his clock, Mic says to us, "When the short one touches four, you'll be here."

We tell him what a smart boy he is.

Mic turns to his mom and says, "Smart, *matalino 'yon, di ba?*"

Yep, Mic, definitely got that one right.

Christine C. Rivero



DENNIS SABANGAN

CAPTION Mic's Magic the quick brown fox jump over the lazy dog

R U RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ______________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
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She/he lives at
____
____
____

and studies at
____

Her/his contact number is:
____

Sender's Name:
____

Sender's Age & School:
______, ______________

Sender's Address:
____
____

Sender's Contact No.
____

Come back, Ms Naguit!

Her students didn't want her to go, but teachers have other dreams, too

TEN-YEAR-OLD Mita Veloso remembers the day very well. It was March, the last reading and language class. And their favorite teacher, Jennifer Naguit, told them all that she was leaving the school to work in a company that publishes children's books.

"I wanted to go with her," Mita recalls thinking. Students rushed to the 23-year-old teacher and forming a big hugging barricade to keep her from leaving the room.

Many kids cried and the commotion prompted other teachers from other classrooms to check on the class.

Teacher Jen would really be missed. "She really inspires her students to improve their talents," Mita says. Having Jen for a teacher was also "like having a friend who's a grown-up and that's really rare," she adds. Teacher Jen liked drawing smiley faces or stars on their test papers. She also seldom gets mad at her students.

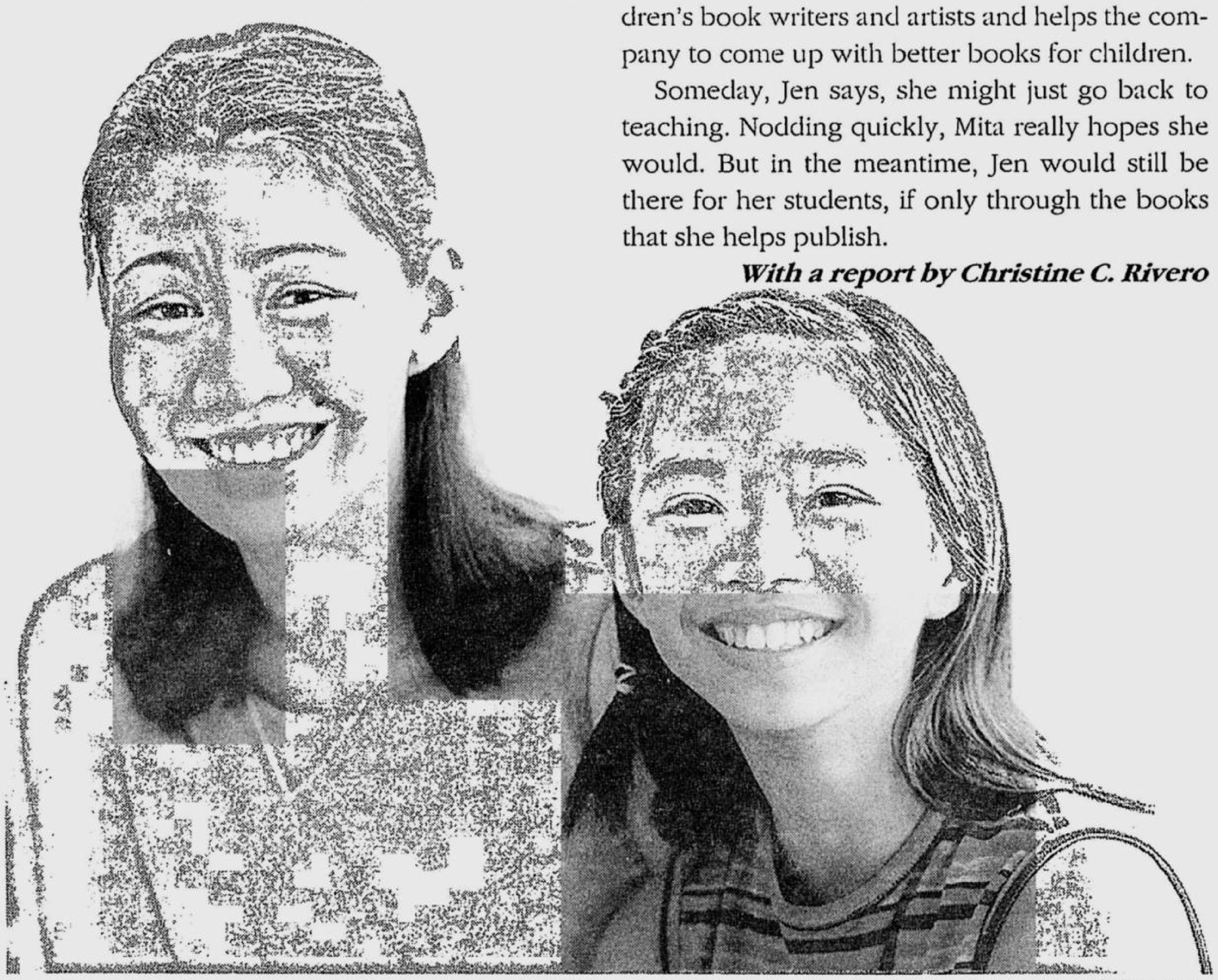
Also, "If I write a poem or any other thing at the back of my test paper, she always writes back," Mita says.

"I was very touched by my students," Teacher Jen now says. "But I have always loved children's literature and my new job was the closest thing I could ever get to my dream."

Miriam Grade School's loss is Adarna House's gain. Although she misses teaching, Jen is just crazy about her new job. She gets to work with children's book writers and artists and helps the company to come up with better books for children.

Someday, Jen says, she might just go back to teaching. Nodding quickly, Mita really hopes she would. But in the meantime, Jen would still be there for her students, if only through the books that she helps publish.

With a report by Christine C. Rivero



VALHANDUMON

IN TOUCH. Teacher Jen and Mita have stayed friends even after Teacher Jen left Miriam Grade School

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

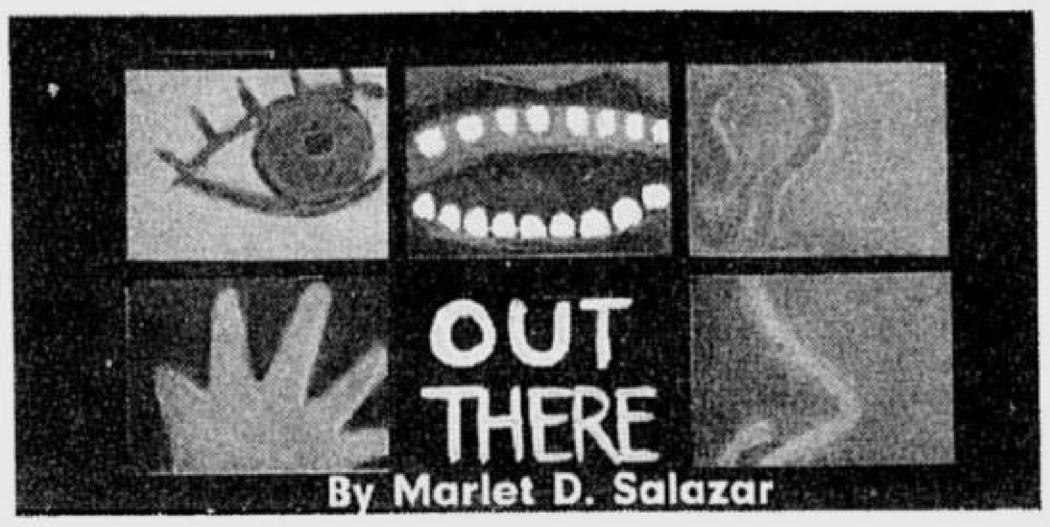
A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is
my ______________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)________________________;
2)________________________;
3)________________________;
4)________________________;
and
5)________________________.

My nominee lives at__________
________________________.
Give him/her a call at__________
______________ or send him/her an e-mail
at________________.
By the way, I'm______________
________________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is
________________________.
You may call me at
________________ ______.



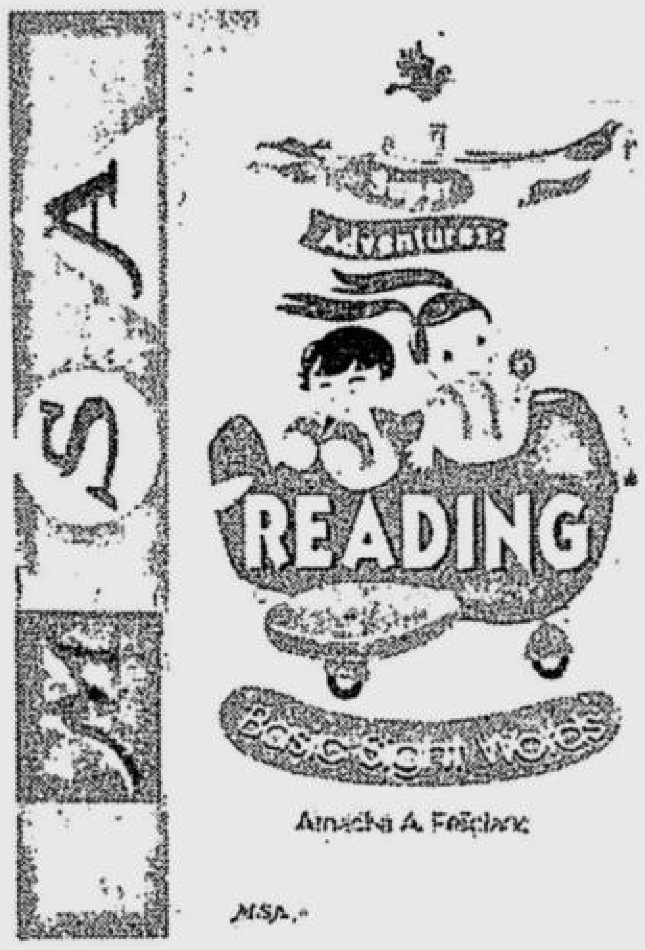
OUT THERE

By Marlet D. Salazar

On the Web

MUSEO GOES ONLINE. Museo Pambata joins the World Wide Web with its website, www.museopambata.org, which is hosted by Philonline. You can explore the theme rooms to see what's cool when you go to Museo Pambata, check out how to become a member and its birthday party packages. The site also includes Tuklas Likha, Museo Pambata's quarterly newsletter.

Stuff



NEW BOOKS. "My Super Adventures in Learning" and "My Super Adventures in Reading Basic Sight Words" are two new books published by MSA Academic Advancement Institute for preschoolers. The books provide kids with basic knowledge and skills in reading, writing and arithmetic. There are colorful illustrations to capture the kids attention. These books are available at National Bookstore and all MSA branches. For inquiries, call 435-6062 or visit their website at www.msatutorial.com

Got something for Out There?

Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Museum Moments

NAME THAT TUNE. Today at 10 a.m. children and adults who like music can troop to Ayala Museum and get a chance to make their own musical instruments. Win exciting prizes in the kiddie version of the "Name That Tune" game. For more details call up Christy Monastrial at 812-1191 to 97 local 128. Ayala Museum is open from Tuesday to Saturday at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is located at Makati Avenue, Makati City.

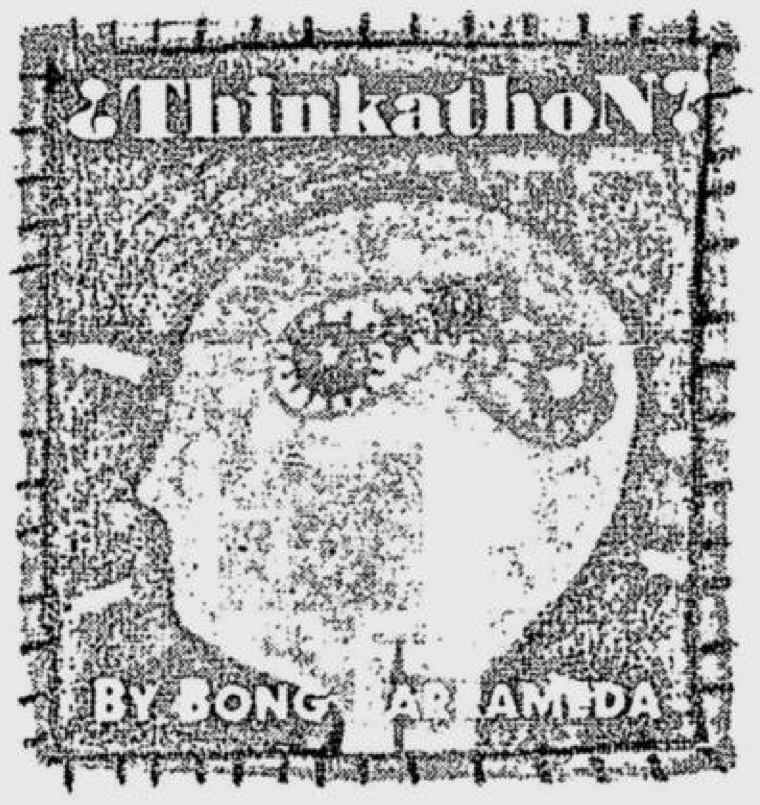
Cable Picks

TRIPLE TREAT. Join Ed, Edd and Eddy, best friends who are confused by the world but are too cool to admit it. Although they share the same names, their personalities are as different as they are ridiculous. Watch the new episodes of "Ed, Edd and Eddy" tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Cartoon Network.

GREAT APES & REPTILES. Learn about humans' "closest relatives" in the animal world and see for yourself these animals in the wild and their fascinating behavior. "The Great Apes" airs tonight at 7 p.m. on National Geographic Channel.

Then, experience "Reptilian Encounters" on July 21 also at 7 p.m. Swim with the venomous sea snakes, save the endangered sea turtles, adore the colorful iguana and be amazed with alligators.

ALIEN INVASION. Discovery Channel takes an intriguing look at the world of alien encounters, out-of-body experiences and extraterrestrial communication with "Alien Invasion." Featuring three premier hours of out-of-this-world programming, "Alien Invasion" airs on July 23 through July 25 at 10 p.m. on Discovery Channel.



Spell 'Eat' Right

BEFORE you start savoring that food item, you better first know how it's spelled. So in today's word menu, go pick the right stuff in each serving. Happy spelling!

1.	☐ mayonaise	☐ mayonaisse	☐ mayonnaise
2.	☐ catsup	☐ ketchup	☐ catchup
3.	☐ pretzel	☐ pretzelle	☐ pretsel
4.	☐ croisant	☐ croissant	☐ crossant
5.	☐ peperoni	☐ peperronni	☐ pepperoni
6.	☐ biscuit	☐ biskit	☐ bisquit
7.	☐ macarron	☐ macaroon	☐ maccaroon
8.	☐ burritto	☐ buritto	☐ burrito
9.	☐ tepanyaki	☐ teppanyaki	☐ tepanyake
10.	☐ smorgasbord	☐ smorgasboard	☐ smoregasbord
11.	☐ boullion	☐ bouillon	☐ bullion
12.	☐ fettucine	☐ fettuccine	☐ fetuccine
13.	☐ mozarela	☐ mozzarela	☐ mozzarella
14.	☐ sauerkraut	☐ sourkraut	☐ saurkraut
15.	☐ hor d'oeuvre	☐ hors d'oeuver	☐ hors d'oeuvre

ANSWERS:

1. mayonnaise
2. catsup / ketchup / catchup (all acceptable)
3. pretzel
4. croissant
5. pepperoni
6. biscuit
7. macaroon
8. burrito
9. teppanyaki
10. smorgasbord
11. bouillon
12. fettuccine
13. mozzarella
14. sauerkraut
15. hors d'oeuvre

RATINGS:

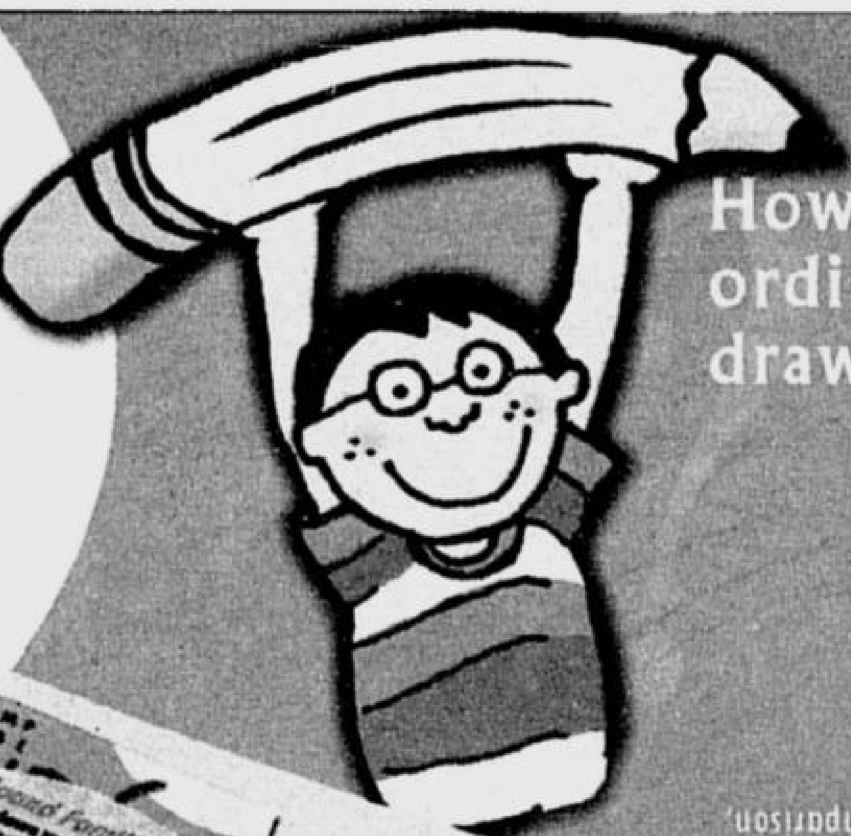
superbrain!
20 - 24

excellent
15 - 19

good!
10 - 14

THE LUNCH BOX

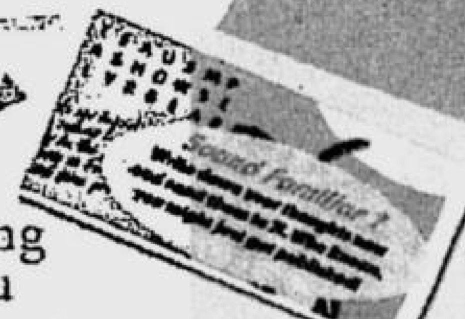
by Katrina B. Villa



How long a line can an ordinary school pencil draw?

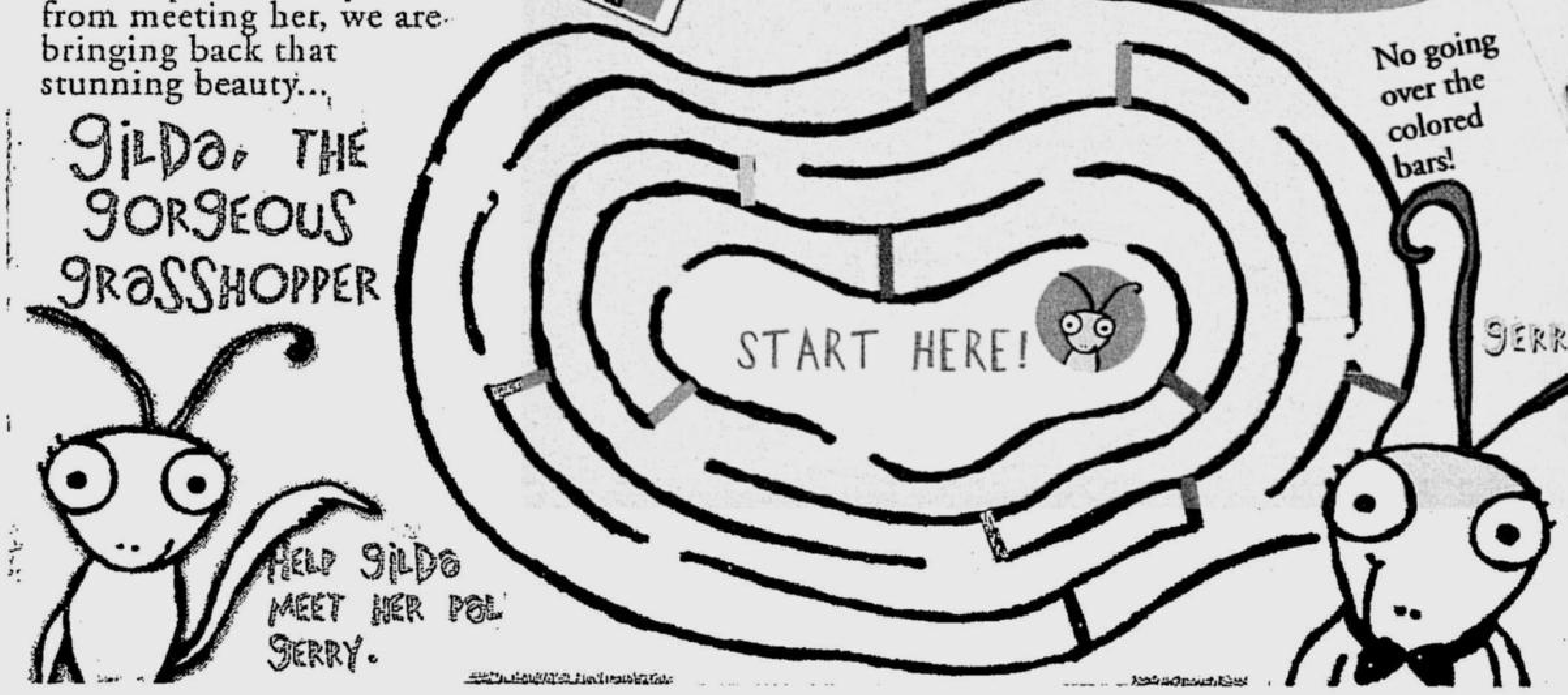
☐ 600 feet
☐ 30,750 feet
☐ 2,400 feet
☐ 185,000 feet

ANSWER: A single pencil can draw a line about 185,000 feet long! Mt. Everest, by comparison, is 29,028 feet high.



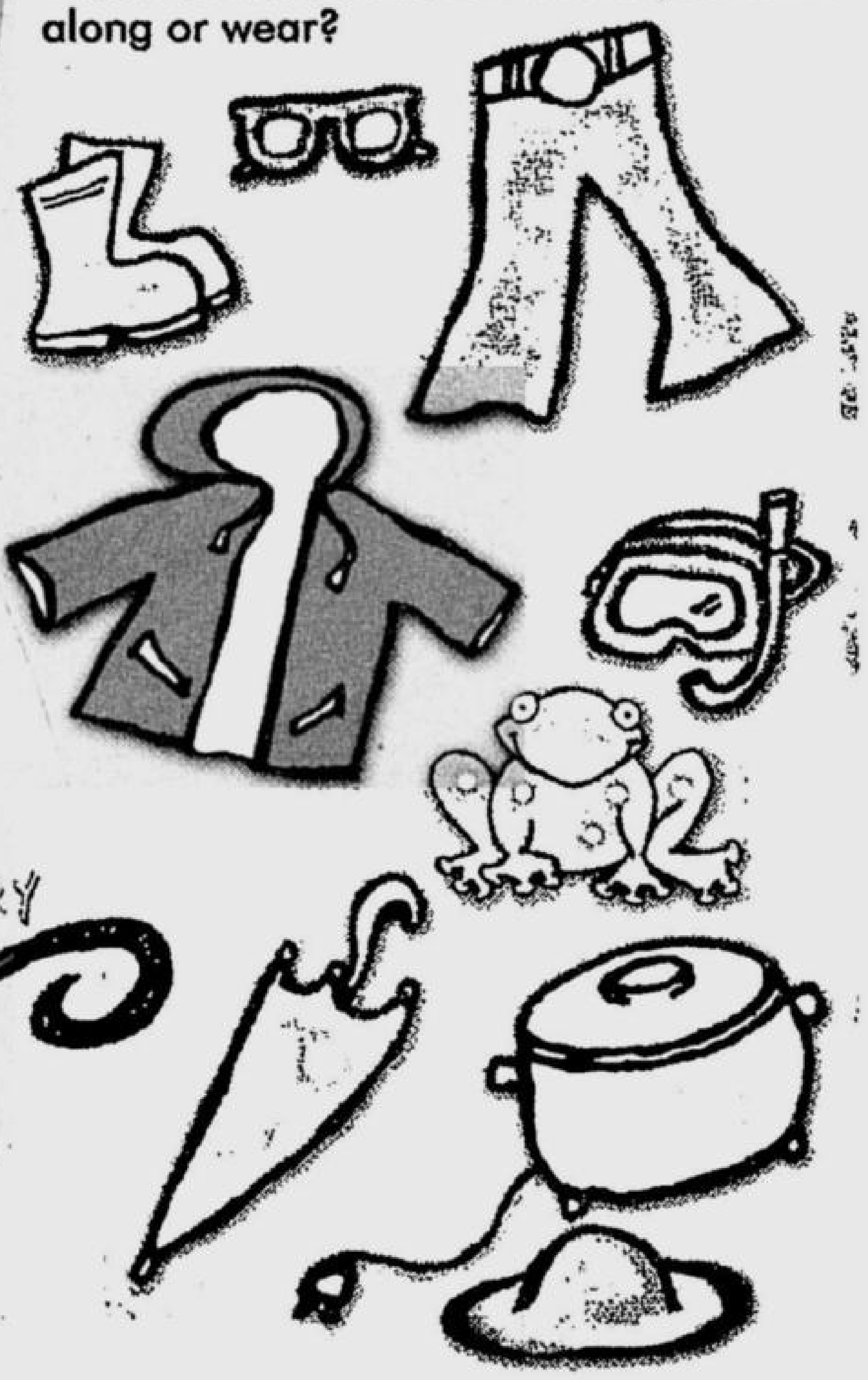
Because 2 issues ago, an unfortunate printing error kept most of you from meeting her, we are bringing back that stunning beauty...

GILDA, THE GORGEOUS GRASSHOPPER


HELP GILDA MEET HER PAL GERRY.
START HERE!
No going over the colored bars!
GERRY

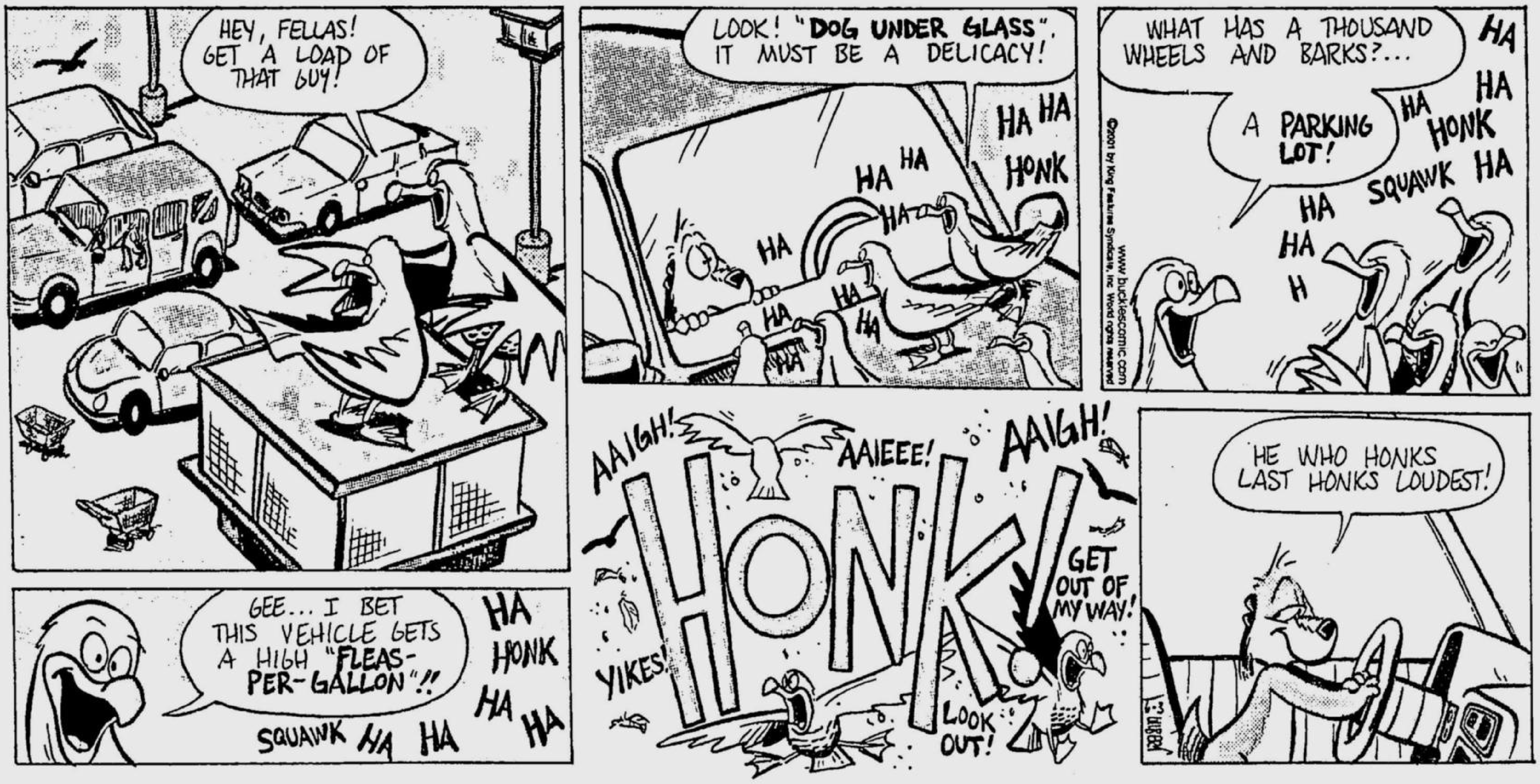
RAIN GEAR HUNT

This time of the year it's normal for some rain to fall. Are you ready for it? Which of the stuff below would you take along or wear?



BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


HEY, FELLAS! GET A LOAD OF THAT GUY!
LOOK! "DOG UNDER GLASS". IT MUST BE A DELICACY!
HA HA HA HA HA HONK HA HA HA HA HA
WHAT HAS A THOUSAND WHEELS AND BARKS?...
A PARKING LOT!
HA HA HA HONK SQUAWK HA HA HA H
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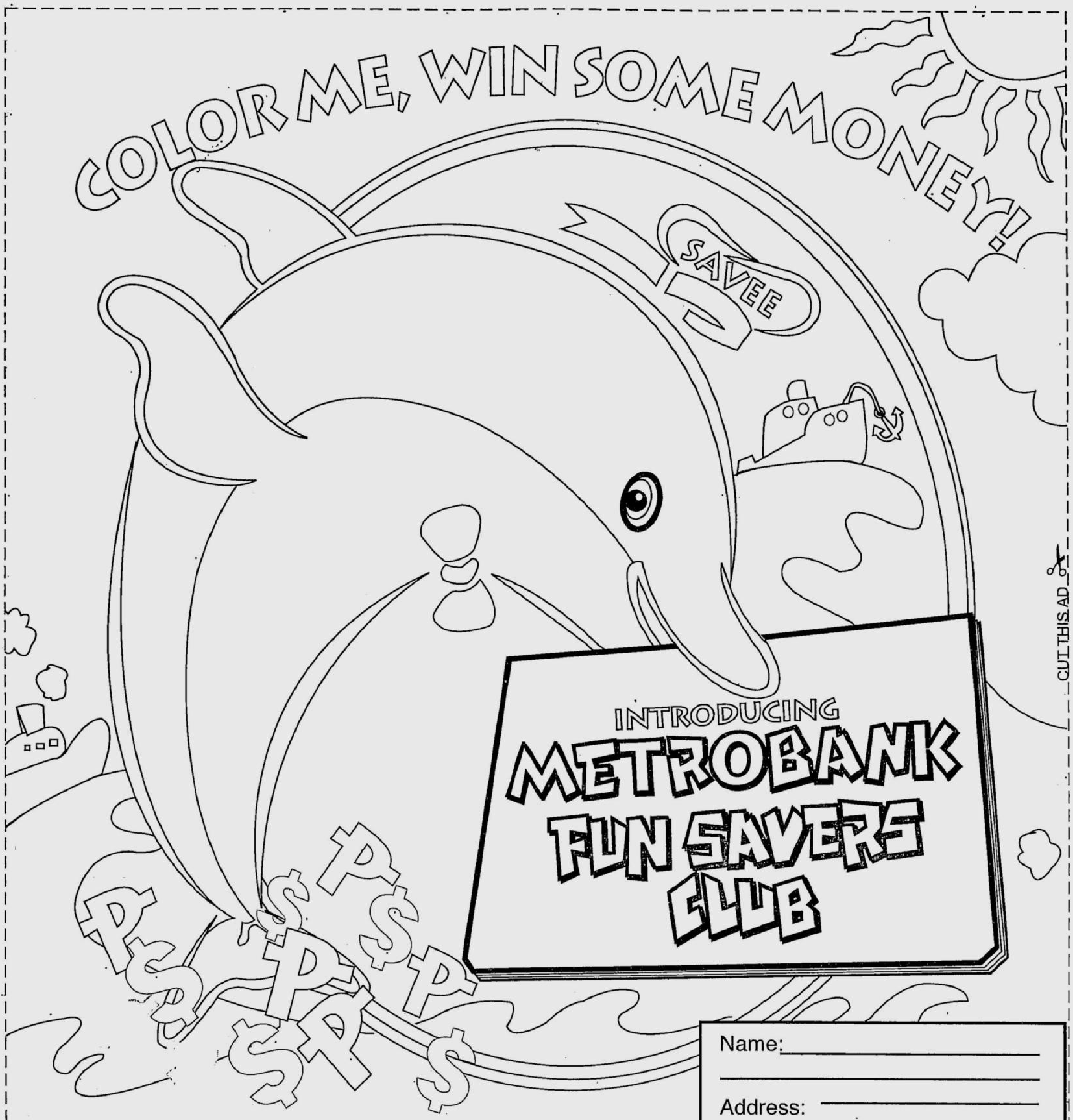
www.bucklescomic.com
GEE... I BET THIS VEHICLE GETS A HIGH "FLEAS-PER-GALLON"!!
HA HONK HA HA SQUAWK HA HA
AAIGH! AAIEEE! AAIGH!
HONK!
YIKES!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
LOOK OUT!
HE WHO HONKS LAST HONKS LOUDEST!



CUT THIS AD

Name:________________________

Address: ________________________

Tel. No.:__________ Age: ______

Metrobank Fun Savers Club member? YES__ NO__

Hey kids! If you're between 7-10 years old, you could be one of ten lucky winners of a ₱2,000.00 initial deposit and membership in the Metrobank Fun Savers Club! If you are already a member and you win, your ₱2,000.00-cash prize will be deposited to your Metrobank Fun Savers Club account. It's so easy to join! Just color Savee the dolphin blue, his tummy white and color the rest of the ad any way you want, then send your entries to: "Color Me" Contest, PRMD, 11th floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Send as many entries as you want on or before August 17, 2001! So what are you waiting for? Get your crayons, craypas and colored pencils and start coloring this ad now!

NOTE: *Only original ads are considered as valid entries. Photocopies will be disqualified.

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Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to ₱100,000.00 per depositor.

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